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**Ashwoods to supply hybrid vans for the Department for Transport's Low Carbon Vehicle Procurement Programme (LCVPP)**

The vans will be used by large public sector fleets including Transport for London, the Environment Agency and the Metropolitan Police

**LONDON, 24 June 2009** - Ashwoods, a leading player in the field of low emissions technology for commercial fleets, has been selected as the low carbon van supplier for the Department for Transport (DfT) run Low Carbon Vehicle Procurement Programme (LCVPP).

The LCVPP is a high profile Department for Transport initiative designed to accelerate the take-up of low carbon technologies in the Light Commercial Vehicle (Vans) market. Vans have been identified as a growing contributor to CO<sub>2</sub> emissions on the road. The LCVPP will see Ashwoods Hybrid vans purchased by a selection of leading public sector fleets in the UK, including Royal Mail, Metropolitan Police, TFL, the Environment Agency and several Local Authorities. Cenex (Centre of Excellence for Low Carbon and Fuel Cell Technologies) will be managing the Programme with the DfT subsidising the additional cost to public sector organisations of purchasing the low carbon vehicles.

Ashwoods technologies have been acknowledged as the best solution by fleet managers, particularly given the current economic climate, as they look to make significant CO<sub>2</sub> and fuel cost savings across their commercial vehicle fleets, without any operational disruption.

Ashwoods managing director, Mark Roberts, says: 'Being selected by the Department for Transport is fantastic news for Ashwoods, especially in the face of established competition. We now have a great opportunity to showcase our hybrid technologies within the UK's leading commercial fleets, and we look forward to a successful relationship with both the DfT and Cenex. This is also a fitting reward for the Ashwoods engineering team who have worked tirelessly to develop our award winning range of

hybrid technologies. Participation in the LCVPP firmly establishes Ashwoods as a leading supplier of hybrid vans and retro-fit hybrid systems for the commercial fleet market '

Transport Secretary Andrew Adonis said, "Greener cars tend to grab all the headlines but emissions from vans have risen by around 40% since 1990. This is something we need to address as part of our carbon reduction strategy for transport.

"Electric and lower carbon vans have the potential to significantly reduce emissions so it is important that we test these new technologies in real world conditions. This new DfT programme enables the public sector to lead by example and I am delighted to see that a number of emerging UK companies have been successful in securing these contracts."

The vans will be used by six local authority groups and six large public fleets:

- Liverpool City Council
- Leeds City Council
- Glasgow City Council
- Newcastle & Gateshead City Council
- Coventry Low Carbon Fleet Partnership
- Consortium of Central London councils
  
- Government Car & Despatch Agency
- Environment Agency
- HM Revenue & Customs
- Royal Mail
- Transport for London
- Metropolitan Police

#### **About the Ashwoods Hybrid Drive**

The Ashwoods Hybrid Drive system can be installed on both petrol and diesel vans. It is a kinetic energy recovery system that stores the wasted energy produced by vehicles during braking and re-uses it to assist the engine when it is at its least efficient. This results in the engine using significantly less fuel and therefore producing less CO<sub>2</sub>. Installation takes less than 3 hours and requires no modification to the vehicle, no holes drilled or wires cut which means that the vehicle warranty and residual value are unaffected.

#### **About Ashwoods**

The Ashwoods story is a breath of fresh air in the current economic climate: a home grown company that has developed an innovative low emission technology that has met the approval of both commercial fleet managers nationwide and major commercial vehicle manufacturers.

Ashwoods has been developing and supplying low emission technologies for over seven years. The company is one of the UK's leading suppliers of LPG systems and LPG vans and has now proved itself to be at the forefront of more cutting edge technology development as the market

shifts towards Hybrid and Electric drive systems. The Ashwoods Hybrid Drive has been developed entirely in-house and is suitable for a wide range of vehicle applications. The technology was voted winner of the 2008 Green Fleet Award for Industry Innovation before being selected as the Low Carbon van supplier for the LCVPP. For more information on Ashwoods Hybrid technologies please visit [www.ashwoods.org](http://www.ashwoods.org)