Research, Design and Manufacturing of New Energy Vehicles in Swindon & Wiltshire

Swindon & Wiltshire
LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP

The ideal location for New Energy Vehicle research, design and manufacturing

Most industrialised nations are introducing vehicle emissions targets and automotive manufacturers around the globe are responding to these demands in developing fit-for-purpose efficient New Energy Vehicles of all types and sizes.

With a strong automotive industry heritage and a large vibrant network of innovative engineering, manufacturing and tech companies; Swindon and Wiltshire are the ideal locations for New Energy Vehicle research, design and manufacturing.

Global brand names such as BMW, Dyson, Honda UK Manufacturing, Hyundai, Johnson Matthey and Toyota attract a broad supply chain and a strong, experienced workforce. Nearby Universities and R&D institutions excel in New Energy Vehicle-related products and technology, such as the High Value Manufacturing Catapult; National Composites Centre and the Universities of Bath, Oxford Brookes and Southampton.

Swindon and Wiltshire are committed to supporting low carbon industries. Swindon is the only metropolis outside London with 2 Hydrogen Refuelling Stations including the UK's 1st public access station at Honda and Wiltshire Council recently installed twin fast charging units as part of the Local Sustainable Transport Fund project.

Ideally located within one hour of London Heathrow and Gatwick Airports and Bristol and Southampton Ports, the area offers a number of sectors, complementary to automotive for supply chain companies including aerospace, agritech, digital and rail. This is amongst the top five business locations in the country.

“Ideally located within one hour of London Heathrow and Gatwick Airports and Bristol and Southampton Ports...”

The home of UK automotive innovation

These are just a selection of the many exciting and innovative companies working across the Swindon and Wiltshire automotive supply chain, with applications relevant to New Energy Vehicles:

At the Bradford on Avon facility, **Anthony Best Dynamics** designs and manufactures specialised systems for the global motor industry, including:

- Autonomous/Driverless vehicle testing
- Development of vehicle safety systems
- Driver assistance system (ADAS) testing
- Kinematics and compliance testing
- Noise/vibration (NVH) testing of powertrain assemblies
- Steering system testing and characterisation
- Vehicle Dynamics/Driver in Loop Simulation
- Vehicle dynamics testing on the track

Part of the BNP Paribas Group, Swindon-based **Arval** operates a leading vehicle leasing and fleet management company supporting businesses of all sizes. Arval currently deploys 15 fuel cell cars around Swindon and is the executive sponsor of the Hydrogen Hub Cars work stream.

Iterations of **BMW** have been operating successfully in Swindon for over sixty years. Now 90% of the pressings and 80% of the sub-assemblies, such as doors, bonnets and tailgates for MINI, are produced in Swindon. Over £85 million has been invested at the site.

The BMW i hybrid car is a recent popular edition and BMW is extending the fleet to include the new MINI Electric Concept designed at nearby BMW Cowley.

US-owned **Cooper Tires** has sites in Swindon and Wiltshire. The Cooper family of companies have more than 430 million Cooper produced tires on vehicles around the world from high-performance cars to off-roaders.

Swindon's **Dialog Semiconductor** designs

“90% of the pressings and 80% of the sub-assemblies, such as doors, bonnets and tailgates for MINI, are produced in Swindon.”

and manufactures high-end audio and infotainment systems, which combine entertainment, 3D navigation, and driver safety information incorporating all round view camera processing.

Part of DTR Corporation, Trowbridge-based **DTR VMS** is a global leading developer, manufacturer and supplier of automotive anti-vibration systems.

A global pioneer in the commercial manufacture of carbon hybrid automotive and monobloc motorcycle wheels, **Dymag** bases its headquarters in Chippenham.

The Dymag Boxstrom Auto Wheels are the result of an intensive multi-million pound R&D project in collaboration with the National Composites Centre. The Carbon Hybrid Auto Wheels are typically 40% lighter than standard cast aluminium wheels and 25% lighter than equivalent aluminium wheels, improving the range of performance of electric vehicles.

“Over 50 organisations are working together in and around Swindon to further the New Energy Vehicle industry.”

Dynamatic Technologies, Swindon, produces high quality Ferrous and Non-Ferrous Automotive Components for Highway, Off-Highway and Technology oriented applications for leading Global Automotive OEMs.

British inventor Sir James Dyson recently announced that "radically different" electric vehicles would be on sale in 2020. **Dyson**, based in Malmesbury Wiltshire, has been working since 2015 on the £2.5 billion project. Dyson is creating an Institute of Engineering and Technology, a new degree awarding body for trainees and a new facility at the former Hullavington Airfield.

In 2014, **Honda Manufacturing UK** opened a solar-powered hydrogen production facility at its Swindon factory. Capable of producing 20 tonnes of hydrogen a year, the hydrogen it produces can be dispensed directly into fuel cell vehicles. Honda manufactures the FCX Clarity; the world's first commercially available hydrogen-powered vehicle and provided hydrogen taxis in London during the Olympics.

Over 50 organisations are working together in and around Swindon to further the New Energy Vehicle industry. **The Hydrogen Hub** aims to promote the commercial use of hydrogen applications (including in automobiles) with the first hub formed in Swindon in January 2016.

BNP Paribas owner Arval leads the Hydrogen Hub "Cars" workstream. In 2017, a Car Showcase saw some of the town's top employers such as Nationwide, The Science Museum and the National Trust showcase the hydrogen fuel cell vehicles they are currently using within their companies. The vehicles were funded as part of a successful bid to the Office for Low Emission Vehicles, supported by Swindon Borough Council and the Hydrogen Hub.

Johnson Matthey Fuel Cells is a global business which supplies high quality fuel cell components for automotive and stationary applications. The Swindon manufacturing facility, opened in 2002 was the world's first dedicated production facility for membrane electrode assemblies; the key component at the heart of most fuel cell technologies.

Since 2008 Queens Award for Enterprise winning **Naim Audio**, based in Salisbury has partnered with Bentley Motors to deliver advanced music systems – inside the world's most prestigious road cars.

TE Connectivity based in Swindon, is developing electric vehicle smart charging solutions, battery-products and a line of connectors, relays, harnesses, contactors and disconnects to safely connect and protect the flow of data and power around hybrid or electric vehicles.

Swindon and Wiltshire Inward Investment Teams are happy to assist companies which may be interested in relocating to this vibrant area.

Tailored services include:

- Bespoke property and employment land searches;
- Networking opportunities with the Switch on to Swindon group of over 550 Business Ambassadors and the Wiltshire 100 Programme, which offers dedicated client management to strategically important businesses;
- Recruitment, apprenticeships and training support;
- Signposting to the extensive range of business support on offer.

Please contact us for more information at

Julia
julia@switchontoswindon.com
tel: +44 (0)7825 215 844

Russell
russell.frith@wiltshire.gov.uk
tel: +44 (0)7825 101672

Jo
Jo.Minnaar@swlep.co.uk
tel: +44 (0)7584 154790
www.swgrowthhub.co.uk