

# Natural Gas Vehicle Network launched

Submitted by: SOPR

Tuesday, 12 May 2015

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The Natural Gas Vehicle Network has been launched by Energy and Utility Skills to highlight the multiple benefits of gas powered vehicles

Increasing interest in natural gas as an alternative vehicle fuel will be channelled by Energy and Utility (EU) Skills into the new Natural Gas Vehicle Network (NGV).

Companies including National Grid, Calor Gas, CNG Services, Flogas and Gas Alliance Group are working together in the new NGV Network to drive forward the development of the NGV market in the UK, focusing on trucks and buses.

Neil Robertson, chief executive of EU Skills says: "It is becoming clear that one of the ways the UK can respond to increasing pressure to improve air quality is to use gas as a fuel for HGVs and buses."

"Gas delivers big greenhouse gas reductions as well as getting rid of hazardous NOx and particulate matter which can lead to myriad health problems, from shortness of breath to lung cancer. This has meant there is some urgency to look for alternatives to diesel engines."

"But the future is here now as demonstrated by Argos who are running dedicated Scania gas powered tractor and Bristol and Reading using compressed natural gas (CNG) buses."

"Gas is demonstrably the cheapest, cleanest fuel for HGVs and buses and the network is going to help show people how to make the switch. We will provide a sector focus and will influence policy makers, encourage collaboration, as well as bringing together leading experts and influential industry figures. We are seeing the creation of a vibrant new industry."

Richard Court, head of stakeholder delivery at National Grid, one of the founder companies in the NGV Network said:

"The network will provide a fabulous platform to maximise the potential of natural gas vehicles. By working together, we can innovate and make best use of existing infrastructure such as the gas distribution networks, LNG and CNG capabilities and develop a new workforce with new skills. We must also lobby policy makers to create the right environment to make sure gas vehicles play their role in meeting the UK's transport needs."

The UK is currently going through a transitional phase, whereby legislation has been passed to set a target to reduce greenhouse gases (GHG) by at least 80% by 2050. This sits in conjunction with a shorter term EU commitment to reduce GHG emissions by 10% across all transportation fuels by 2020.

Ends

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Note to editors:

Companies in the NGV Network include - National Grid Distribution, National Grid, GrainLNG, Gas Alliance Group, Calor Gas, Iveco, Scania, Centrica, CNG Services, Gasrec, Flogas, Boc

An EU Skills report showed that both CNG and LNG can provide significant GHG reductions in the short term using existing technology (15 – 30% ). Gas as a vehicle fuel reduces both nitrous oxides (NOx) and Particulate Matter emissions which can help the UK and Local Authorities achieve their Air Quality targets. NGV trucks also offer a 50% reduction in noise compared to diesel  
Report quotes - Energy and Utility Skills, UK Market Review: The Role of Natural Gas in Road Transport  
March 2015

29th April - the Supreme Court has ordered the UK government to present new air quality plans to the European Commission by the end of 2015.