UPS to test hybrid electric vehicle

UPS Press Release, June 22, 1998

In June of this year, UPS unveiled plans to test a Hybrid Electric Vehicle (HEV). Developed to increase fuel economy and decrease both harmful emissions and maintenance costs, the HEV fits the company's commitment to use innovative technology in its daily operations.

Developed by Navistar International Corporation and Lockheed Martin Controls Systems, the concept HEV that UPS will test combines two familiar technologies—conventional engines and electric motors. The engine turns a generator to provide electrical energy for 24 batteries and the drive motor, which propels the vehicle. The batteries boost the electric motor during peak power needs. Regenerative braking uses the motor as a brake and recaptures the vehicle's energy and stores it in the batteries for future use.

The HEV technology is of particular interest to UPS because of its potential to reduce vehicle emissions, economize on fuel in stop-and-go situations and reduce maintenance requirements to the drivetrain. The HEV provides higher fuel economy and emits fewer particulates than its standard diesel counterpart. Moreover, the HEV's sealed electric motor and long-life batteries require no maintenance. The concept vehicle design uses an International® medium truck chassis and school bus chassis from Navistar, along with an International® T444E diesel engine. The HybridDrive™ control systems were developed by Lockheed Martin.

The 18-month UPS test trials in three different climatic and environmental areas—Johnson City, NY; Atlanta; and Los Angeles—will help determine the commercial viability of the vehicle.*

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USDOE Clean Cities' national objectives

The U.S. Department of Energy established the national Clean Cities program to expand the use of alternative fuels with the goal of decreasing our country's dependence on foreign oil. The objectives of the program are to:

1. create new jobs and commercial opportunities,
2. facilitate alternative fuel vehicle production and conversion,
3. advance Clean Air objectives,
4. increase public awareness,
5. provide greater fuel choices,
6. develop "Clean Corridors,"
7. expand refueling infrastructure, and
8. support regulated fleets.*

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Clean Fuels Florida

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Clean Fuels Florida is produced quarterly by the Florida Suncoast Clean Cities Coalition at the University of South Florida's Center for Urban Transportation Research (CUTR) to inform public and private fleet operators about the opportunities and risks of conversion to alternative fuel vehicles.

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Help clean up our Tampa Bay air!

In a recent article in the Tampa Tribune (“Pollutants could cloud Bay’s future,” Aug. 1, 1998), State officials from the Department of Environmental Protection paint a grim (and dirty) “air quality picture” for some of Florida’s communities. As many as three areas—Escambia and Duval counties and parts of Tampa Bay—will probably not meet the more stringent standards for ozone that the U.S. EPA established last year. This could land the Tampa Bay region back on the EPA’s non-attainment list for ozone in 2000 or 2001.

What can you do to help? Become actively involved in the Suncoast Clean Cities Coalition! Our goal is to advance the objectives of the Clean Air Act and its 1990 Amendments by facilitating alternative fuel vehicle acquisitions and the expansion of Florida’s refueling infrastructure to service these AFVs. Because emissions from gasoline and diesel-powered vehicles can be the biggest contributor to air pollution in many cities, operating low or no emission AFVs can significantly reduce ozone and other contaminant levels.*