

A BILLION EUROS TO WIN THE BATTLE FOR A CARBON-FREE CAR IN FRANCE

Eleven initial projects tied to carbonless vehicles were announced at a press conference in Paris, June 18, called by Jean Louis Borloo, French Minister for Ecology, Energy, Sustainable Development and National and Regional Development; Chantal Jouanno, State Secretary for Ecology; Valérie Pécresse, Minister of Higher Education and Research; Luc Chatel*, State Secretary for Industry and Consumer Affaires; and Philippe Van de Maele, President of ADEME.

Selected by the ADEME Demonstration Fund relative to a call for expressions of interest (EOI) launched by ADEME in July 2008, **these eleven projects will benefit from 57 million euros in subsidies. A second EOI concludes the 26th of June**; it will terminate in an autumn selection of a series of new projects, thanks to an additional 50 million euros made available within the framework of the *Pacte Automobile* which was announced by the French President in October 2008.

"To win the battle for a carbon-free car"...is the 2011 French industry objective settled on by J-L. Borloo, who indicated that endeavors to "move out of the box and on to the road" call for an investment of close to 1 billion euros: 200 million euros over 3 years from the Predit program; 200 to 250 million euros from the National Research Agency; and 450 million over 4 years from the ADEME Demonstration Fund – "a totally new funding instrument", commented V. Pécresse.

Created within the framework of the *Grenelle de l'Environnement*, the **ADEME Research Demonstration Fund** finances the development of demonstration projects, an essential step between laboratory research and full-scale industrialization. Its objective is the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by 75% through testing in areas associated with new energy technologies: low-greenhouse gas emitting road vehicles, second-generation biofuel production, carbon capture and storage, high-tech energy-efficient buildings, or intelligent energy grids, for example.



C. Jouanno next to a Toyota demonstrator

Jean-Louis Borloo reiterated the State commitment to the purchasing of 100,000 electric vehicles in a coordinated operation for use by administration employees and major public and private company fleets, including EDF's. He also expressed his wish to see an ensuing industrialized electric vehicle both diverse and competitively priced on offer to the French public. **This aim implies a development of charging infrastructure**, the rationale for top level efforts currently being conducted by each of four committees piloted by Jean-Louis Legrand, Inter-ministerial Coordinator for Carbon-free Vehicles. The Standards and Norms Committee (chaired by EDF) along with the Testing and New Economic Models committees will present their first reports at the end of July.

Exceptionally diverse, **the eleven projects "run the gamut from light to heavy-duty vehicles, and from hybrid to all-electric propulsion... They will allow our country to take its place in the race toward tomorrow's vehicles"**, declared J-L. Borloo.

EDF is associated with several of these projects. In one instance, it has undertaken an innovative partnership with **Toyota** for the testing of one hundred plug-in rechargeable hybrids along with their recharging infrastructure in the city of **Strasbourg, France**. Baptized **DHRT2**, the project was presented by Michel Gardel, CEO of *Toyota-France* on the 18th of June.

EDF partners several other projects in progress, in particular Hydrole, coordinated by **PSA** for the development of a rechargeable hybrid vehicle to be tested starting in 2012, and **Eilisup**, launched by **Irisbus** for the testing of two bus models (one hybrid, one all-electric).



PSA and Toyota demonstrators

*Jean-Louis Borloo and Luc Chatel were appointed Minister of Ecology, Energy, Sustainable Development and Oceans, and Minister of National Education, respectively on June 23rd.

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