

# UK unveils automotive sector deal first

A new government deal aims to establish the UK as a world leader in the future of mobility

**U**K Business and Energy Secretary Greg Clark has unveiled the government's first ever UK Automotive Sector Deal (see [bit.ly/2DsJLNd](http://bit.ly/2DsJLNd)), aimed to extend the partnership between government and the automotive industry, boost investment in emerging technology and establish the UK's leadership in meeting the future mobility and clean growth challenges outlined in the recently published Industrial Strategy.

The deal includes up to £32mn of new joint funding for an industry-led supply chain competitiveness programme that will help grow the UK supply chain and make it internationally competitive. It secures joint investment and long-term commitments between government and industry in areas including the design and development of connected and autonomous vehicles (CAV), the research and development of battery technology and accelerating the manufacture of ultra-low and zero emission vehicles.

As part of this, the government has also announced £26.4mn of investment, match-funded by industry to total £52.8mn, to help develop the next generation of driverless and low-carbon vehicles. Three flagship projects will be led by Ford, GKN and Jaguar Land Rover:

- *E-Prime* – a project led by Ford's UK based global manufacturing engineering team working with machine tool supply chain

partners to develop process and equipment for the production of ultra-high volume next generation electrified powertrain systems.

- *ACe-Drive* – development of GKN's future generation e-Drive system platforms, utilising high speed electric machines and advanced high speed power electronics. In conjunction with universities and businesses, this project aims to further grow UK capability in the design and manufacture of e-machines and power electronics.
- *VERBIUS* – development of future state of the art electric hybrid vehicle systems for Jaguar Land Rover, in conjunction with universities and businesses across the UK. The project aims to significantly improve vehicle system efficiency through the utilisation of innovative electronic systems and componentry.

The UK government has already committed through the Advanced Propulsion Centre some £500mn over 10 years to 2023 to research, develop and industrialise new low-carbon automotive technologies in the UK, with industry providing £500mn match funding for collaborative R&D projects. The government is also planning to invest up to £225mn from 2023 to 2026 to support automotive R&D, with industry

providing equivalent match funding. Meanwhile, in a bid to encourage the transition to ultra-low and zero emission vehicles, the Faraday Battery Challenge (see [bit.ly/2tD87dE](http://bit.ly/2tD87dE)) sees government investing £246mn to make the UK a world leader in the design, development and manufacture of batteries for the electrification of vehicles.

Some £250mn of government investment is to focus on the development and deployment of connected and autonomous vehicles (CAVs), while £16mn will be invested, subject to business cases, for an industry-led match-funded national supplier competitiveness and productivity improvement programme to support a sustainable and internationally competitive UK supply chain for future volume vehicle production.

The deal acknowledges that the UK automotive industry has benefitted from the European market and as the UK leaves the EU, the industry has welcomed the government's ambition to achieve a new relationship that is free from tariffs and without friction to trade – factors that are fundamental to the competitiveness of the UK automotive sector.

Further proposals are being shaped for the next phase of the Automotive Sector Deal, with a focus on capitalising on the UK's capabilities including the digital design and testing space which will substantially reduce the time and cost of developing the next generation of vehicles.



Photo: Electric Nation

## Electric vehicles

### UK funding for EV charge points under-used

UK Transport Minister Jesse Norman and Climate Change Minister Claire Perry have called for local authorities to do more to help reduce carbon emissions and tackle air quality after it emerged just five councils in the whole of the UK have taken advantage of an electric car scheme.

In 2016 the UK Department for Transport launched the On-Street Residential Chargepoint Scheme, offering local authorities up to 75% of the cost of procuring and installing electric car charge points.

The remaining costs can be funded through public and private sources.

Charge points can be anything from new points popping up on streets to adapting existing lamp-posts to make the best use of space. The money has been available since 2016 but so far only five councils have come forward, so there is £4.5mn still available.

With a host of different support schemes for electric vehicles announced in the Autumn Statement, including a Charging Investment Infrastructure Fund to

accelerate the roll out of charging infrastructure, and more money to help people buy electric cars, the on-street scheme is an important part of the toolkit. Around a third of homes in England do not have off-street parking, making it extremely difficult to charge an electric vehicle overnight. As a result, on-street charge points like those being offered through this scheme have the potential to entice drivers to switch to electric.

For more, visit [bit.ly/2BfnV5H](http://bit.ly/2BfnV5H)