

Client: University of Warwick
Source: Coventry Telegraph (Main)
Date: 13 January 2011
Page: 16
Reach: 37326
Size: 657cm2
Value: 4927.5



NEW RESEARCH UNIT AIMS TO CREATE LOW CARBON PRODUCTS

UNIVERSITY'S £10m GREEN CHALLENGE

By Mary Griffin

ENVIRONMENT REPORTER

A NEW multi-million pound research unit at Warwick University will set its sights on designing and producing greener luxury products.

The university says financial support totalling £10 million, will allow it to set up a new training centre where doctorate students from the manufacturing industry will become the industrial research "leaders of tomorrow".

In an announcement expected today, the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council will award funding for five new centres across the UK to drive forward innovation in sectors such as the aerospace and automotive industries.

The centre awarded to Warwick Manufacturing Group (WMG) at Warwick University is to focus on high value manufacturing with a low environmental impact, tackling challenges such as producing low-carbon luxury cars.

University spokesman Peter Dunn said: "The idea is to look for low carbon tech-

nology and producing high quality engineering products.

"The students will already be in industry, working within the research arms of companies.

"This centre will allow them to work towards getting a doctorate at the same time as delivering a novel piece of research for their company, so it benefits the student, the company and the university."

The other four research centres are at Strathclyde, Swansea, Sheffield, and Nottingham, each based in university departments with a track record of working with industry partners.

Warwick's centre will take on 10 doctorate students in its first year, before expanding the programme to take 30 new students each year.

The university describes the course as "a radical alternative to the traditional PhD" that will see students

working with industry partners in the UK and abroad, producing research projects on real industry problems and working in a group to take a product to market.

While the research council provides part of the costs for each training centre, the remainder comes from a mix of university and industry funding.

The major partner at the Warwick centre is Jaguar Land Rover, with other organisations including IBM, the Motorsport Industry Association, Nikon, Siemens and Tata Steel.

David Willetts, minister for universities and science, reckons the scheme will help boost the country's economy.

He said: "These new centres will generate a new wave of engineers with the knowledge and skills needed to become future business leaders and create new innovation and economic growth for the UK."

