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show CO2 progress



## Renault starts up new energy engine

Renault has started production of its new flagship powertrain range, the diesel 'Energy dCi 130' (R9M).

Developed by Renault, the Energy dCi 130 benefits from the expertise of the engineering team at the Rueil-Malmaison centre outside Paris. The team here has developed benchmark diesel engines, such as the 1.5 dCi, 2.0 dCi, 2.3 dCi and V6 dCi. This Alliance engine is being assembled at Cleon in France and will be fitted in Renault and Nissan vehicles.

At Renault, it will be available primarily in Scénic and then Mégane.

Developing 130hp from a capacity of 1.6-litre, the new engine slots in between the dCi 110 range (also known as 1.5 dCi or K9K) and the dCi 150 to 180 hp (also known as 2.0 dCi or M9R). This new engine is the first in the new generation of 'Energy' combustion powertrains. It features a raft of CO2-reducing technologies never before seen at this level of the range. They include a stop & start system with regenerative braking but also, as a European premiere, a new exhaust gas recirculation cold loop.



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### Tata takes on green engineers

Tata Motors is hiring 100 new engineers and investing around £50 million in research and development of low-carbon technologies at its centre at the University of Warwick. This will boost the workforce to 340.

Tata Motors' European Technical Centre (TMETC) has developed Tata's Indica-based Vista electric vehicle (above) and the Nano-based Pixel city car, unveiled at the Geneva show and targeted at European drivers. Tata has invested £85m since founding TMETC in 2005. The centre is operated in partnership with WMG, formerly known as the Warwick Manufacturing Group. The Vista will be built in Warwick and will be available to fleet customers from this summer from around £23,000.

Approximately one-third of car manufacturers are at, or near, the 130g/km fleet average target set by the EU for 2012, according to the Clean Green Cars website.

At the current rate of improvement of 3.5% per year, this means the 130g/km target will not be reached until 2013, a year late. Four manufacturers are under 130 g/km and five others are between 130g/km and 131 g/km. The four who have overachieved are Fiat at 117.23 g/km (its twin air engine is pictured), Citroen, 121.37 g/km, Toyota, 125.00 g/km and Mini, 128.19 g/km.

The EU target is an industry average and each manufacturer has an individual target based on the weight of its vehicles. Only one manufacturer has got significantly under its individual EU target: Lexus is now 11.5 g/km below, with an average figure of 134.8 g/km. All the four manufacturers mentioned are all outside their target, although Toyota and Citroen both miss by less than 1 g/km.



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## Updates

**BMW** has the lowest fleet average CO2 emissions among the UK's premium cars, according to research from the website cleangreencars.co.uk

The average of 147g/km is an improvement of 4.97% over the previous year and keeps BMW just ahead of Audi on 152g/km (a 4.87% improvement) and Mercedes-Benz on 174g/km, an improvement of 6.34%.

BMW notes that it has been the premium CO2 league leader every year since it launched its Efficient Dynamics in 2007.

Meanwhile, figures from the SMMT show that average new car CO2 emissions fell to 140.3g/km in Q1, a 3.4% reduction on a year ago. Diesel car volumes rose by 7.9% in Q1, as their market share rose from 41.1% to 48.5%. Alternatively fuelled cars achieved a record 1.4% share of the total market in the quarter, after volumes rose by 27.3%.

**Volkswagen** is visiting a number of shows and exhibitions with its BlueMotion Technology products this year, encouraging the nation to 'Think Blue' and find out about the latest innovations which help cut the cost of motoring by making every drop of fuel take you further.

Visitors to events including the Gadget Show Live, the Ideal Home Show in Glasgow and Gardeners' World Live will have the opportunity to learn about BlueMotion

technologies through an interactive touchscreen and riding the 'rollercoaster' which takes them on a journey of discovery into the innovations which reduce fuel consumption and emissions. BlueMotion cars will also be on display. VW points out that the Golf BlueMotion returns 74.3 mpg on the combined cycle and emits 99 g/km of CO2.

**The European Commission** has launched a four-year, €42 million pan-European electromobility initiative, Green eMotion, with 42 partners including BMW, Daimler and Renault-Nissan, city authorities, universities and technology and research institutions.

The aim of the initiative is to exchange and develop know-how and experience in selected regions within Europe as well as facilitate the market roll-out of electric vehicles in Europe. The Commission is putting €24.2 million into the project.

Transport commissioner Siim Kallas said: "Transport is currently 96 per cent dependent on oil for its energy needs. This is totally unsustainable. Transport 2050 calls for a reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> from transport of at least 60 per cent by 2050. At the heart of this strategy is a major shift in cities to the electric vehicles away from cars with conventionally fuelled engines."