



Australian automotive manufacturing industry collaborates on electric vehicles

Melbourne, Australia, 18th February 2011 – Industry leaders in the Australian automotive manufacturing industry came together today to announce the launch of EV Engineering Limited.

EV Engineering Limited will design and engineer seven 'proof of concept' fully-electric versions of Australia's number one selling passenger vehicle, the Holden Commodore. This project will take place over a 15 month period.

The 'proof of concept' vehicles will be powered by renewable energy using standard electric vehicle plug-in and battery switching infrastructure. They will be used to investigate technical viability and attractiveness to customers so that consideration for mass production can be undertaken.

Consistent with the direction of the Automotive Australia 2020 roadmap, EV Engineering Limited represents the first industry collaboration on large, powerful, zero-emissions vehicles. EV Engineering Limited brings together major automotive components suppliers Air International, Bosch, Continental and Futuris, electric vehicle infrastructure and services provider Better Place, with the support of Holden and the CSIRO.

According to the chairman of EV Engineering Limited and former President and CEO of Mitsubishi Australia, Robert McEniry, electric vehicles represent an exciting opportunity and important part of the future of the Australian car manufacturing industry.

"This collaboration is evidence that the local manufacturing and automotive industries have recognised the important role these vehicles will play in their future," Mr McEniry said.

"EV Engineering Limited builds on the existing strengths of the industry in large sized passenger vehicles for both domestic and export markets. This initiative will strengthen the local capabilities and give Australia the opportunity to lead the world in the development of large, powerful, zero-emissions vehicles, and ensure we remain globally competitive in this sustainable, high growth market."

Members of EV Engineering Limited are backing the project with financial and in-kind contributions and substantial access to IP, and engineering support. Funding of \$3.5M to be allocated to engineering costs, will be provided from the Australian Government's Green Car Innovation Fund (GCIF).



Gavin Smith, Regional President of Powertrain and Chassis Systems Control at Bosch Australia said of the partnership, "This project will help develop electric vehicle engineering skills, capabilities and components within the Australian supplier industry."

"By their involvement, each of the partners makes a clear statement. They believe there is a place for the Australian industry to participate in the exciting new developments surrounding the electrification of the motor vehicle. By developing the skills and capability here, the partners will be in a good position to exploit opportunities as vehicle manufacturers further extend their portfolio of electric vehicles."

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About EV Engineering Limited:

EV Engineering Limited brings together the leaders in Australia's automotive industry. The group is comprised of major automotive components suppliers Air International, Bosch, Continental and Futuris, electric vehicle infrastructure and services provider Better Place, with the support of Holden and the CSIRO. For further information visit www.evenengineering.com.au