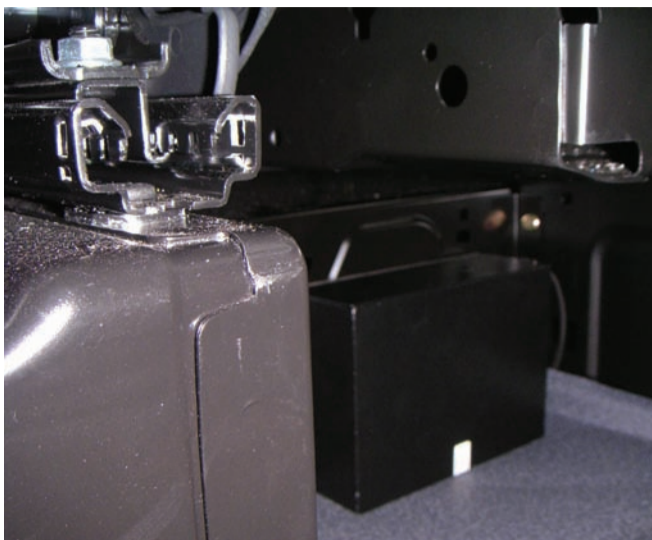


TESTING ECO POWER EMISSION REDUCTION SYSTEM

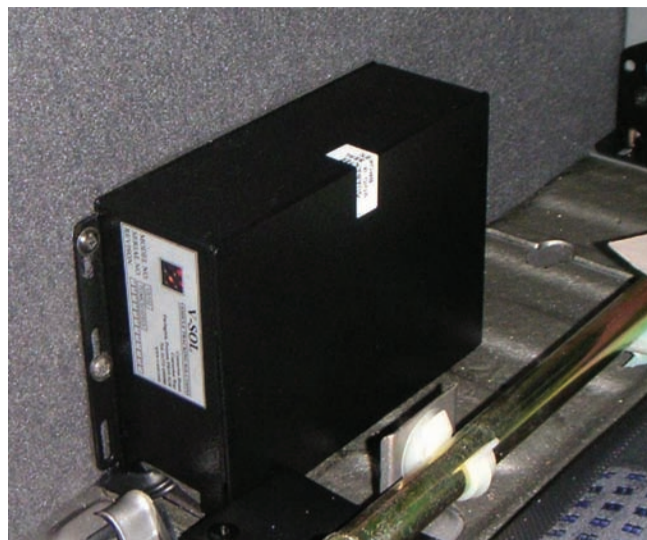
In June 2007, the PCO approved the Eco-Power emission reduction system, an emission reduction solution in support of the Mayor's Taxi Emission Strategy. This system has a cooled Exhaust Gas Recirculation (EGR) circuit and a combined catalyst and partial flow filter



unit. It is approved for use on a 'Euro 1' LTI Fairway. Before approval, the system was independently assessed by the Energy Saving Trust (EST) and has undergone a monitored period of 'in-service' durability testing.

Ken Livingstone's Taxi Emission Strategy meant that systems which would bring older cabs to Euro 3 had to undergo testing before being approved by the PCO. This meant the systems had to be fitted to suitable taxis. The test procedure, which was managed by the Energy Savings Trust (EST), required 3 back to back emissions tests at a VCA approved emissions laboratory which had to pass a Euro 3 drive cycle test. The next part of the procedure was to carry out a 10,000 mile durability test. Previously this test had to be conducted over a 6 month period but in order to accelerate the procedure Eco-Power agreed with the PCO and EST to install a comprehensive real time tracking system.

V-SOL worked closely with Eco-Power by tracking vehicle usage in the tests. A state of the art tracking system was installed on the taxi by V-SOL. This was closely monitored by the EST and PCO. The system allowed real time online monitoring by giving password protected access to the relevant officials who were able to establish the exact movements of the taxi and therefore confirm that it was covering the 10,000 miles in a normal London Taxi drive cycle in and around London - and not doing laps around the M25 just



to cover the miles!

V-Sol report that the PCO and EST were very impressed with the detailed reports and online features that the V-SOL tracking system provided. Eco-Power completed the durability trial then conducted a further three back to back emissions tests and

has now received approval of the system by the PCO. This system is referred to in PCO Notice 18/07.

David Isom, Managing Director of V-SOL commented: "The London taxi plays an important part in the capital's economy, for tourism and business alike. Unlike other vehicles, they are built to last, however old vehicles are not currently environmentally friendly. V-Sol is proud to have assisted in the testing of what will be a ground breaking green project.

"By providing continual, real time monitoring, we have helped to prove that Eco-Power is fit for purpose and will deliver the benefits it promises. V-Sol share their philosophy and pride in providing a high quality, cutting edge technology to vehicle systems."

TX4 JOINS WILMSLOW TAXI FLEET

In London, the purpose built taxi is a world recognisable icon, but in other parts of the country calling for a "taxi" means a variety of different vehicles could arrive. In Wilmslow Cheshire, one taxi company has taken the decision to put a TX4 on its fleet, in response to increased fears over driver safety.

Carl Larsen, owner of Silver Cars said: "Having looked at a number of vehicles at the Private Hire and Taxi Show in Coventry, the TX4 completely bowled us over in terms of performance and its exceptional range of internal features. More importantly, the vehicle offers additional protection which will enable our drivers to pick up late night revellers without the fear of being attacked."



MISSING TAXI DRIVER

Regular readers of Taxi Globe will recall a Police Appeal last month which was asking for help in the search for taxi driver from Essex. David Venables was reported missing from his home address in Fyfield on Friday, June 29 by his wife. The 68-year-old man, who suffers from Parkinson's Disease, lived on Moreton Road.



Detectives investigating the disappearance of this driver arrested a 50 year old man a 54 year old and woman from St John's Wood on 17th October on suspicion of murder. They were questioned by Essex Police detectives at a police station in London.

This is still being run as a missing persons investigation despite the arrest of these two people. A Police spokesperson said the Police have still yet to hear from David or anyone who may know him in London. David's black taxi was found in an underground car park in St John's Wood at the time of the London/Glasgow terrorist strikes. It was recovered by a clamping firm. There is still no sign of David though.

Anyone with information on David's whereabouts is urged to contact Essex Police on 01279 641212 or their local police station.