

CLEANING UP QUIETLY

Modec's electric van originally began life at LTI as the E Mercury project. But the vehicle was not produced until the project went to Modec, headed up by Jamie Borwick, former Chairman of Manganese Bronze, parent company of LTI. Now the electric vehicles are cleaning up on the streets of London as Amey and AccordMP have both introduced Modec vehicles to their fleet, having bought 13 and 10 vehicles respectively. You won't hear them coming - but the vehicle are sure to catch your eye as they get to work street cleaning.

Chris Connor from TfL praised the fact these companies were walking the walk; he says: "Reducing the capital's carbon footprint is one of the biggest challenges facing us today. It is great to see the environmental initiatives implemented by our highways maintenance contractors."



Modec are keen to keep up to date with environmental issues. Professor Julia King was asked to follow the Stern report and Modec were only too happy to help the researchers. In support of the Stern report, looking at the current environmental crisis, the Stern-King review looks into the solutions that are available in today's world. The research team went to visit the Modec factory to see for themselves the impressive plant, which was unveiled in March by The Right Honorable David Cameron MP.

PAY BY CARD? YES OF COURSE

JourneyPay™, the official payment provider to Heathrow Airport and BAA is partnering with Mantax Radio Taxis Ltd, Manchester's Premier Hackney Carriage Organisation, to launch a new mobile payment solution. The product, BuyVoice™, enables Manchester's licensed cab drivers to take major credit and debit card payments in their vehicle, anytime, anywhere, simply by using their existing mobile phone.



Barry Davis, CEO for JourneyPay

This powerful new product requires no investment in additional technology and with transactions taking approximately 90 seconds, passengers have the convenience of paying by card in a simple and secure way. Paul Blackmore, Operations Manager, for Mantax Radio Taxis comments "We are increasingly being asked by passengers to pay for fares by credit and debit card. BuyVoice™ will give passengers that choice without significant upfront investment for our drivers."

Registration and set-up for BuyVoice™ can be completed within 48 hours and training takes just 40 minutes! Once registered, each driver receives a designated driver ID and pin no for use with every transaction. To operate, drivers simply dial into a secure voice recognition system, which prompts them for their user ID, pin number and value of the fare and or tip. Each request is repeated clearly to enable any corrections to be made before final confirmation and completion of the transaction. A 10% surcharge is automatically added to each fare for use of the BuyVoice™ System and payments are made directly into the drivers' bank account.

Barry Davis, CEO for JourneyPay™, said: "We wanted to develop an application that was cost effective and easy to use. BuyVoice™ has achieved this and we are delighted to be working with Mantax Radio Taxis Ltd to roll this out to drivers in the Greater Manchester area."

TAXI PROMOTIONS UK LAUNCHES NEW TAXI ADVERTISING FITTING BAY

Taxi Promotions UK has launched a brand new taxi advertising fitting bay in the centre of London, at Dunbridge Street, EC2, to join its Golders Green and Heathrow operations.

The bays are state-of-the-art taxi advertising fitting workshops and offer skilled fitters with cutting-edge facilities, a sanctuary for busy drivers including daily change floats, hot and cold refreshments, free taxi receipt pads, a clean driver lounge and taxi wash. Taxi drivers are offered great rates and are paid upfront to host taxi advertising campaigns. For travel advertising "Ambassador Drivers" can get all expenses paid trips to destinations across the world.

Asher Moses, managing director, Taxi Promotions UK, said: "Applying or changing advertising graphics has never been easier, quicker or more convenient."

MAKE PARKING ENFORCEMENT MORE MOTORIST-FRIENDLY

Most taxi drivers have received a parking ticket at some point even when they have carrying out their job as part of London's integrated transport system. With more and more cameras in place it is even harder to ensure you are not breaking a parking rule. Commenting on new government proposals to make parking enforcement more motorist-friendly, the Chairman of London Councils Transport and Environment Committee Councillor Daniel Moylan said: "I am delighted that the government is following the lead of London's boroughs in seeking to make parking enforcement as firm but as fair and transparent as possible.

"In London we are well aware of how emotive parking enforcement can be and London Councils and the boroughs have worked hard to strike the right balance. As a result many of these new powers proposed by the government are already operating in London. This has included the introduction this month of the first city-wide two tier system for parking penalties - based on the seriousness of the contravention committed. This new system will see motorists who commit less serious offences - such as overstaying on a parking meter - receive a £20 lower penalty than they would have done before.

"We believe it is important that the public, motoring groups and other interested parties are able to have their say on issues around parking penalties and enforcement. This is why their views played a key role in shaping the new method of issuing parking penalties in London. People do not like receiving parking tickets, but regulations are put in place to ensure that everyone can use the capital's roads as smoothly and as safely as possible. But they have to be enforced if they are to be effective.

"We consistently urge people to appeal if they feel they have a valid reason for not receiving a penalty. However less than 1 per cent of all the penalties issued in London are appealed to London's Parking and Traffic Appeals Service, a statistic that speaks for itself. While the capital may be ahead

of the game on many issues of parking enforcement we will not be resting on our laurels and will be looking at the new powers to see if there are ways we can continue to enhance the service we provide."

