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KPM OFFER FREE SGS INSPECTIONS

In a new initiative at KPM, customers who regularly service and overhaul with them will get an inspection and presentation at SGS free of charge. This offer is also extended to new customers wishing to take advantage of the scheme immediately after the 1st Overhaul. This initiative is born out of the news from TFL of the very low rate of first time passing that SGS are experiencing with cabs presented not only for six monthly inspections, but also on Overhauls. KPM's 1st time pass rate is in the circa 90% category.

Peter DaCosta KPM's Chief Executive told Taxi Globe: "It is very disturbing and sad that the trade are presenting such low standard cabs for passing. I believe this firmly plays into the hands of the Private Hire, whose pass rate I understand is higher than the licensed trade.

"What we don't want as a Trade is for this news to be used as propaganda against us. I understand that people are already saying, if the cabs are like that for

passing, then what are the cabs like in service. We as a trade have earned some very high accolades recently in the press, regarding our standing in the World Taxi Markets, but the trade must keep the standards up if we are to continue at number one." Peter continued by saying: "Over the pass year we as a Company have monitored and assessed very closely how things have progressed with SGS, and feel because of our experience, which we are now in our 33rd year of presenting cabs at the PCO/SGS, we are able to offer this exceptional scheme for our regular customers.

"We know their cabs, have all their records on computer, and because they service in accordance with the manufacturers schedule, and because we now know what SGS require, we can carry out the presentation with little fuss. This offer will be extended to new customers after their first overhaul with us."

Further information can be obtained from KPM's Overhaul department on 0207 377 2182.

MANGANESE BRONZE SIGN AGREEMENT TO PRODUCE ZERO EMISSION LONDON BLACK TAXI

A development agreement has been signed by Manganese Bronze with The Tanfield Group Plc, the world's leading manufacturer of commercial electric vehicles, to develop a battery powered, zero emission urban taxi. The all-electric version of the TX4 - to be branded the TX4E - will have a top speed of 50mph and a range in excess of 100 miles on one battery charge. It is specifically designed for taxi operations in congested urban areas.

The TX4E will contain all the conventional features of the TX4, but will be powered by Tanfield's advanced electric drive train and Iron Phosphate lithium-ion battery pack. Based on current electricity prices, it is estimated the TX4E will cost less than 4p per mile to run, therefore providing significant whole life cost

savings over an equivalent diesel vehicle. The initial cost of the TX4E is however likely to be higher than the diesel powered TX4. The target date for the launch of the TX4E is mid 2009 following engineering assessment and customer testing.

The TX4E will be manufactured in the UK for the urban taxi market and sold through the Company's distribution networks. John Russell, Chief Executive Officer of Manganese Bronze, said: "We are very pleased to have signed this agreement to produce a zero emission London black taxi. Manganese Bronze is committed to playing a leading role in tackling emissions and the TX4E is an exciting new development that gives us first mover advantage in an expanding global marketplace."

Darren Kell, Chief Executive of The Tanfield Group Plc, said: "This partnership will create a unique and highly marketable zero emissions vehicle. By integrating our cutting edge battery and drive train technology into the class-leading TX4, we can offer a truly global product that answers many of the issues raised by urban private passenger transport - rising fuel costs, air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions."

NORTH WEST TAXI AID WANTS YOU AGAIN!

As usual we are looking for drivers to take disabled kids from schools in Kingsbury and Neasden on a day out After last years successful trip, we are going again to Chessington world of Adventures.

No matter what the weather, the kids always have a great time. The children will be fully supported by adult teachers or helpers and you will be required only to drive them there and back, usually to the school from which they



came if you feel that you want to 'do your own thing' inside Chessington. All drivers will receive a 'thank you' which will help pay towards their fuel and lunch.

You will be required to assemble at schools at 8.00am on 18th June to decorate your cab and attach sponsorship posters. We hope to leave the Harrow district Masonic Centre in Kenton at about 10.15 after a razzamatazz send off by the Mayor of Brent.

For further enquiries contact one of the following:
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