

HYDROGEN TAXI IN HILLCLIMB AT GOODWOOD

This year's Goodwood Festival of Speed was billed as the new British Motor Show. With the sun blazing across the site, for the whole of the weekend. Over 100,000 visitors attended each day.

The hydrogen taxi, recently launched at City Hall, was on show in the FoS-Tech Pavillion where it received a great deal of interest from visitors. Twice each day it was taken out of the Pavillion to join many other entries on the famous Goodwood Hillclimb. This narrow 1.16-mile driveway in front of Goodwood House saw many rare, and extremely valuable racing cars from past and present blast up the hill. In total over 300 vehicles went on the hillclimb; the hydrogen taxi was in the Green Machines class, alongside vehicle entered by Audi, Lexus, Mercedes Benz, Toyota and Vauxhall.



Vehicles making their debut at the event included the Audi A1, Nissan Juke, Ford Focus RS500, Mercedes' CL successor the S-Class Coupe, Alfa Romeo Giulietta, Hennessy Venom GT, Alpina B5 and MG6. Meanwhile in the supercar paddock almost every dream car you could imagine was there - the new McLaren MP4-12C, Ferraris, Porsches, Lamborghinis and Bugattis. But the Festival was not just about the cars; there were bikes on show, the Red Arrows gave an amazing show and there were many different exhibitors selling everything from car memorabilia to hats, jewellery and pictures.



HYBRID BLACK CAB JOINS BRIDGESTONE ECO-RALLY 2010

EVO Electric Ltd demonstrated a plug-in hybrid version of the iconic London Black Cab at the Bridgestone ECO-Rally on July 7th. EVO Electric's DuoDrive hybrid system is an original powertrain solution that gives improved driving performance and fuel economy for a range of commercial vehicle applications including taxis and delivery vans. DuoDrive was developed by EVO Electric engineers, combining their cutting-edge Axial Flux motor and generator technology with their expertise in hybrid and electric powertrain design. In recent tests, the DuoDrive taxi demonstrated a 56% improvement in miles per gallon compared to a standard London Taxi and simulations predict that an improvement of 100% is possible with further optimisation. Testing was done at an independent vehicle test centre, certified by the UK Vehicle Certification Agency (VCA) and part of one of the world's largest 'Tier One' automotive supplier groups.

With the DuoDrive system fitted, the taxi can operate in three different modes: as a zero-emission, all-electric vehicle in urban and emission-controlled areas, a series hybrid-vehicle in urban and extra-urban environments, and a parallel hybrid when cruising on the road. Also, the system enables smoother acceleration and braking due to the absence of a gearbox. "Hybrids are a proven solution to increasing fuel economy in urban commercial vehicle fleets, where 'stop-and-go' driving, long idling times and high annual mileage combine to provide highly attractive payback times for hybrid powertrain solutions. However, current hybrids are too heavy, too expensive and too complex," commented Michael Lamperth, CTO of EVO Electric. "Implementing this exciting technology will halve CO2 emissions while helping taxi drivers cope with upcoming regulations and fuel price increases."

Now in its fourth year, the ECO-Rally will showcase the latest in low and zero emission vehicle technology in a convoy from Brighton's seafont to London's Hyde Park, and will involve some of the biggest names in Formula One driving.



RTG DRIVERS TO GET NEW TOUCH SCREEN IN-CAB DATA TERMINALS

Radio Taxis Group (RTG) has signed a contract to supply its fleet with the latest Autocab Zeus GPRS touch screen in-cab data terminal. "We are absolutely delighted to make this investment in new technology," said Geoffrey Riesel, RTG's Chairman and CEO. "The Zeus GPRS MDT is the very latest in cutting edge colour screens using the public network. It will help to make us more reliable and efficient than ever before."

The screens work on GPRS through the Pathfinder system. Drivers on the RTG circuit will be able to access dispatching services, satellite navigation and more. "Our drivers and our customers will benefit from an even more responsive service through the use of this 21st century technology," Geoffrey Riesel continued.