

FUTURE TRANSPORT SYSTEMS

integrating transport with infrastructure

Smart Move trial

4 smart ED vehicles were deployed in the North East, joining council fleets across the region. All drivers took part in questionnaires before and after driving the vehicles to measure expectations, performance and attitudes towards electric cars.

The cars were also made available for test drives, with members of the public spending 20 minutes driving a mapped circuit. Again, perceptions and attitudes were recorded as people reacted to the cars.

Data loggers installed collected data from the CAN bus. Battery and charging performance, including energy recaptured through regenerative braking, was analysed by the University of Newcastle.

FTS provided support to Cenex during the delivery of this trial. View the full report at

www.cenex.co.uk/projects

Trial management



To increase the uptake of electric cars it is important to break down negative perceptions and provide early adopters with reassurance in relation to performance and practicality. Providing electric vehicles on a trial basis can significantly shorten the opinion forming process.

Bespoke trials can be created to meet various objectives for different vehicles and target markets. Trial candidates should mirror the anticipated real life situation and market segment being targeted by manufacturers and/or service providers. Trial candidates should ideally add value to the project, whether by providing high visibility and marketing opportunities, specific drive and recharging patterns, or particular areas of interest, for example the emergency services.

Effective data capture will provide relevant information to shape the future market. Hard data can be captured

72% of drivers said they would use an electric vehicle after driving one, up from 47% before a test drive

Steve Carroll, Technical specialist, Cenex

through GPS enabled units linked directly into the CAN bus. These are capable of reporting live information (communicated every second) for all events involving the battery and selected vehicle systems. Soft data capture will complete the human side of the picture, and build an emotive view.

A major trial, such as Switch EV, introducing new vehicle platforms and involving over 90 separate trial periods and 150 drivers, also brings challenges in developing the supporting processes and services. The bespoke and high

value vehicles have to be insured, maintained, and covered by a 24 hour breakdown service. The emergency services also have to be involved in case of accidents with battery powered car. The trial candidates must be trained in driving and charging the car, and so handbooks and relevant communication tools have been developed.

To create a successful trial, recharging infrastructure must also be in place to support the drivers. Data captured from charging points and energy consumption will complete the driving and ownership model.

www.futuretransportsystems.co.uk