



NEWS RELEASE

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WENATCHEE, WA – The Advanced Vehicle Innovations (AVI) Consortium hosted a series of meetings and tours on Wednesday, January 30th to strengthen partnerships and refine plans for the AVI-led Washington State Plug-In Hybrid Electric Vehicle (PHEV) Pilot Project. The catalyst for the meetings was the arrival of Idaho National Laboratory's (INL) Principal Investigator for the Advanced Vehicle Testing Activity (AVTA) program, Jim Frankfort.

Frankfort kicked-off the day's activities with a presentation on INL's findings-to-date about PHEVs and then discussed a potential collaboration with the AVI consortium. AVI has requested INL to consider a significant role in data collection and analyses for the 10-20 hybrid vehicles to be enrolled in the pilot project. Ron Johnston-Rodriguez, economic development director for the Port of Chelan County, lead agency for the AVI, said "The project's execution, and INL's participation, will represent another milestone in AVI's 'PluginCenter' strategy: Positioning North Central Washington as a leader in state and national efforts to electrify transportation – a trend robust with economic opportunities, and one that reinforces an 'innovation friendly' and 'green' image of our region".

The meetings brought together key partners in the AVI-designed PHEV Pilot Project, including: Tim Stearns, WA Department of Community, Trade, and Economic Development's Energy Division and lead for the state's PHEV Pilot Project initiative; Pilot Project Research Design Co-chairs - Dr. Jim White, Chelan County PUD, and Dr. David Granatstein, WSU; Jim Richardson, Wenatchee Valley College (WVC) President; Blake Murray, Automotive Program Director, WVC; Scott Logan, Director of Pupil Transportation, Lake Chelan School District and President of the WA State Pupil Transportation Directors Association; JC Baldwin, Port of Chelan County Commissioner; and Jim Bailey, Wenatchee City Council member.

A highlight of the day's activities was the plug-in hybrid electric school bus that shuttled the participants to their meetings at the Confluence Technology Center, Chelan County PUD, and Wenatchee Valley College. The bus is one of the first of just nineteen plug-in hybrid school buses in the nation. Recently acquired by the Lake Chelan School District, it is fueled by electricity from the grid and a bio-diesel blend. Scott Logan, Director of Pupil Transportation for the district and an active AVI member, described the bus's technology and performance.

The bus and other plug-in hybrid vehicles will become more visible in NCW in the coming months as AVI and Wenatchee Valley College coordinate the conversion of as many as a dozen hybrids into plug-in hybrids for enrollment in the Pilot Project. The vehicles will be available for local viewing and inspection during AVI's fourth Power UP! Summit on May 8-9th 2008. For more information, see www.PluginCenter.com.

- END -

Attachments:

- Agenda/Itinerary
- Background information re: PHEV Pilot Project and Idaho National Lab's AVTA
- Photos (digital) available via email on request (list of available photos attached)



Exploring Potential Collaboration between Idaho National Laboratory and AVI's Plug-in Hybrid Electric Vehicle Pilot Project for WA State

Wednesday January 30, 2008 ~ 9 a.m. to 2:45 p.m.

A series of presentations & discussions featuring

Jim Francfort, Principal Investigator, Advanced Vehicle Testing Activity, INL

Note: Transportation to the various meeting locations will be provided on the Lake Chelan School District's recently acquired Plug-in Hybrid Electric School Bus

AGENDA / ITINERARY

Time	Location	Topic / Activity
9:00 a.m.	CTC	Welcome & Summary of WA PHEV Pilot Project <i>Ron Johnston-Rodriguez & Tim Stearns (WA State CTED)</i>
9:15 a.m.	CTC	Idaho National Lab's Advanced Vehicle Testing Activity, PHEV Research & Potential Collaborative Role with the WA PHEV Pilot Project ~ <i>Jim Francfort, Principal Investigator</i>
10:15 a.m.	CTC	Break/View PHEV School Bus ~ <i>Scott Logan, Lk. Chelan School Dist.</i>
10:30 a.m.	CTC	About the PHEV School Bus ~ <i>Scott Logan, Lk. Chelan School Dist.</i>
10:45 a.m.	CTC	Board & ride PHEV school bus to Chelan County PUD
11:00 a.m.	CCPUD	Discussion: PUD, PHEVs, Grid, and the Pilot Project ~ <i>Dr. Jim White</i>
11:45 a.m.	Inna's	Lunch (No Host) – General discussion re: Pilot, INL, AVI
1:15 p.m.		Board & ride PHEV School Bus to Wenatchee Valley College
1:30 p.m.	WVC	Meet with WVC President Jim Richardson (Pres. office)
2:00 p.m.	WVC	Wenatchee Valley College Auto Shop Tour / Conversion plans <i>Blake Murray, WVC Automotive Program Director</i>
2:30 p.m.	WVC	Board & ride PHEV School Bus back to CTC
2:45 p.m.	CTC	ADJOURN

Locations: CTC = Confluence Technology Center; CCPUD = Chelan County PUD headquarters; Inna's = Inna's Restaurant, Downtown Wenatchee; WVC = Wenatchee Valley College

Contact: Ron, Aimee, or Szilvia at the Port of Chelan County: (509) 663-5159; Email: ron@ccpd.com

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

WA PHEV Pilot Project

In 2007, with assistance from Senator Linda Parlette, the Washington legislature directed the Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development (CTED) to conduct research on plug-in hybrid vehicles to address questions about grid interaction, emissions, energy storage, charging cycles, fuel consumption, economics and driver behavior (ESSHB 1303, Section 408). In mid-November 2007, the AVI consortium (with Port of Chelan County as 'lead' agency) submitted a proposal for the pilot project to CTED. The proposal has been well-received, and negotiations are underway to forge an agreement that will allow for the project's implementation in the first quarter of 2008.

'Pilot' activities include converting 10-20 government and utility-owned Toyota Prius hybrids into plug-in hybrids. The conversions will be conducted via a Continuing Education class conducted at Wenatchee Valley College's automotive training program facility. At present, the Port of Chelan County and Chelan County (government) have each committed to enrolling at least one PHEV in the Pilot. AVI is pursuing agreements with other government entities from throughout the state for PHEV conversions and enrollment in the pilot project.

The Pilot is characterized by evolving relationships with outstanding partners, a few of which include: A123 and Hymotion, leaders in lithium battery design and PHEV conversions; Southern California Edison, a utility with 15 million miles of electric vehicle testing experience; Pacific Northwest National Lab for grid-integration research; and Wenatchee Valley College, perhaps the first community college in the nation to recognize the need for a future workforce trained in hybrid, electric, and PHEV systems. Dr. Jim White of the Chelan County PUD, and Dr. David Granatstein, of Washington State University serve as co-chairs of the Research Design Committee for the Pilot.

The AVI and Washington State are hopeful that Idaho National Laboratory will join the partnership, contributing their experience and services related to with PHEV testing.

Idaho National Lab & the Advanced Vehicle Testing Activity (AVTA)

Jim Francfort, Principal Investigator for INL's AVTA, is meeting with AVI and WA PHEV Pilot organizers on January 30, 2008 to assess a potential role for AVTA in collection and analysis of core vehicle data for the Pilot.

The Advanced Vehicle Testing Activity (AVTA) is conducted jointly by the Idaho National Laboratory (INL) and the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL). The AVTA is part of the Department of Energy's FreedomCAR & Vehicle Technologies Program. The primary goal of AVTA is to provide benchmark data for technology modeling and research and development programs. It accomplishes this goal by benchmarking and validating the performance of light-, medium-, and heavy-duty vehicles that feature one or more advanced technologies, including:

- Internal combustion engines burning advanced fuels, such as 100% hydrogen and hydrogen/compressed natural gas-blended fuels
- Hybrid electric, pure electric, and hydraulic drive systems
- Advanced batteries and engines
- Advanced climate control, power electronic, and other ancillary systems.

By benchmarking the performance and capabilities of advanced technologies, the AVTA supports the development of industry and DOE technology targets. The testing results are also leveraged as input to component, system, and vehicle models, as well as hardware-in-the-loop testing.

The AVTA develops vehicle test procedures with input from industry and other stakeholders to accurately measure real-world vehicle performance. These test procedures are then used to test production and pre-production advanced technology vehicles on dynamometers and closed test tracks as well as in government, commercial, utility, and industry fleets. The AVTA tests produce unbiased information about vehicles with advanced transportation technologies, which reduces the U.S. dependence on foreign oil, while improving the nation's air quality.

The AVTA also produces information resources that support the decisions fleet managers and the public make when acquiring advanced technology vehicles. The testing results are presented in easy-to-understand formats that allow users to compare the performance of different types of vehicles.

LINKS

- Links to additional information: <http://avt.inl.gov/> The data on this web site only reflects the analysis results for the testing activities directed by the INL.
- For more information about the AVTA and its other testing activities, visit <http://www.eere.energy.gov/vehiclesandfuels/avta>.

To view reports specific to PHEVs:

http://www1.eere.energy.gov/vehiclesandfuels/avta/light_duty/phev/phev_reports.html

Digital Photos Available on Request

PHOTO CAPTIONS:

Credit: Port of Chelan County

Contact: Szilvia Rideg, Port of Chelan County, 663-5159

Date: January 30, 2008

Locations:

Confluence Technology Center (CTC)

Chelan County PUD (CCPUD)

Wenatchee Valley College (WVC) - President's Meeting Room; Auto Shop

People in photos are listed from left to right.

- 1) Lake Chelan School District's PHEV School Bus at the CTC
- 2) Hybrid Power by Enova (Lake Chelan School District's PHEV School Bus)
- 3) Diesel Electric HYBRID (Lake Chelan School District's PHEV School Bus)
- 4) Blake Murray and group at CCPUD
- 5) Steve Hair interviewing Scott Logan at CCPUD
- 6) Jim White and PHEV School Bus at CCPUD
- 7) PHEV Prius, PHEV School Bus, Von Pope, Aimee Pope, Ron Johnston-Rodriguez, and Blake Murray at CCPUD
- 8) Terry Peek, Ron Johnston-Rodriguez, Anne Brooks, and Randy Brooks at WVC
- 9) Tim Stearns, President Jim Richardson and Jim Francfort at WVC
- 10) Jim White, Blake Murray, Jim Francfort, Randy Brooks, and Aimee Pope at the WVC Auto Shop
- 11) Group picture in front of the WVC Auto Shop's Plug-In Hybrid Electric Vehicle Charging Station:
L to R Back Row: Scott Logan, Randy Brooks
L to R Main Row: Jim Bailey, Anne Brooks, Tim Stearns (kneeling), Mike Brogan, Blake Murray, Jim Francfort, Ron Johnston-Rodriguez, Jim White, Aimee Pope
- 12) Anne Brooks and Scott Logan in front of the PHEV School Bus