

## NEWS RELEASE

# Fuelling the Future – a first for hydrogen refuelling

Embargoed till 00.01, Tuesday 20 September 2011

The UK's first open access hydrogen vehicle refuelling station officially opens today (20 September) at Honda's manufacturing facility in Swindon. Built and operated by industrial gases company BOC, a member of The Linde Group, the venture is the result of a partnership between Honda, BOC and economic development company Forward Swindon.

The new station is open to anyone developing or using hydrogen-powered vehicles. It can fill vehicles at both 350 bar and 700 bar, the two standard filling pressures adopted by the world's major vehicle manufacturers.

Hydrogen has huge potential as a sustainable transport fuel, creating no emissions other than water vapour. While all the major vehicle manufacturers are developing hydrogen-powered models, there are few refuelling facilities available to users. Consumers will not purchase hydrogen vehicles without being confident that there will be a refuelling network; yet the big fuel companies will not invest in new facilities while there are no hydrogen cars on the road.

The Swindon station aims to break this impasse by providing a glimpse of the future, while creating a strategic link half way along the M4 between London and Swansea. As a fully operational, commercial-scale station using tested technology, it is a solution that can be replicated across the country and so create the essential network necessary for the widespread uptake of hydrogen-powered transport.

Among the many innovations of the new station is that it can fill vehicles 'back-to-back' from a bank of hydrogen cylinders. This means that vehicles can be filled one after another without having to wait for more hydrogen to be generated.

Another feature is the design: it looks just like a conventional filling station and the time to fill a vehicle is comparable with conventional fuels. The Honda FCX Clarity for example takes less than five minutes. For the consumer, then, the experience should be very similar to refuelling at a normal petrol station.

Also present at the unveiling are a range of different types of vehicles, from passenger cars and light commercial vehicles to an ambulance, a taxi and a London bus – all fuelled by hydrogen. Hydrogen is finding applications across the entire automotive sector.

Speaking at the opening of the facility, Richard Kemp-Harper, Lead Technologist for Transport and Energy at the Technology Strategy Board, said: *"The change from conventional transport systems to sustainable, low carbon alternatives is one that can only be made through businesses and government working in partnership to develop innovative solutions. This new refuelling station gives a real glimpse of the role hydrogen can play in practice. It is a great example of the kind of collaboration and innovation we need."*

Mike Huggon, Managing Director of BOC in the UK and Ireland, said: *"This is the first commercial-scale, open-access station in the UK. It demonstrates that we can build the infrastructure needed to establish a hydrogen-powered transport system. But even with private and public support – as we have here in Swindon – we need Government commitment to make this work across the country as a whole. We can provide the tools but the Government has to create the policy framework in which we can build the low carbon infrastructure of tomorrow."*

Ian Piper, Chief Executive of economic development company Forward Swindon, said: *"I'm proud that we have been involved in such an exciting public-private partnership. Forward Swindon was the initiator of this project and brought together the funding: it's a great example of how innovative projects can come to life in the UK, even in a recession. Swindon's strategic location makes it the natural home for new transport technologies, and I'm confident this facility will encourage a growing interest and take up."*

Thomas Brachmann, Head of Electrical Powertrain R&D at Honda, commented: *"Hydrogen fuel cell technology is the ultimate transport solution; meeting environmental demands but also delivering the range and performance that customers expect. The cooperation on this project between vehicle manufacturers like Honda, infrastructure providers like BOC and the public sector can be a blueprint for future development."*

Ends

## Notes to editors

1. The Hydrogen Refuelling Station is situated at the Honda of the UK Manufacturing (HUM) site in South Marston, Swindon. It is operated by BOC with support from Honda.
2. The station has been funded by industrial gases company BOC, as well as through money provided by the South West Regional Development Agency (SWRDA) administered by Forward Swindon, and by Honda UK.
3. The refuelling station is based on a model deployed by BOC's parent, The Linde Group, at over 70 other locations around the world. The Linde Group is a world leader in clean energy technologies and engineering.
4. For more information, contact:
  - **Simon Napper, BOC Communications**  
Tel: 07500 815 166, Email: [simon.napper@boc.com](mailto:simon.napper@boc.com)
  - **Julia Falcon, Forward Swindon**  
Tel: 07768 806 319, Email: [JuliaFalcon@forwardswindon.co.uk](mailto:JuliaFalcon@forwardswindon.co.uk)
  - **Kate Saxton, Honda (UK)**  
Tel: 07793 903 157, Email: [Kate.Saxton@honda-eu.com](mailto:Kate.Saxton@honda-eu.com)

## Honda

Honda provides a broad product range encompassing cars, motorcycles, power equipment (including marine, energy, lawn and garden and ATV) and, from 2012, aviation. In 2010, Honda sold over 17 million motorcycles, 3.5 million cars and over 5 million power products worldwide. It has 70 production plants in 27 countries. Honda employs over 180,000 people around the world, including 4,000 in the UK. Honda has a strong environmental heritage. It was the first company to commercially market a fuel cell car, the first company in its industry to recycle water in its manufacturing plants, and achieves zero waste-to-landfill at its manufacturing plant in the UK. For more information, visit: [www.honda.co.uk](http://www.honda.co.uk)

## Forward Swindon

Forward Swindon is the company established by Swindon Borough Council to deliver economic and cultural growth, and regeneration in Swindon. The Company is funded by the Council, but operates independently. The Board is recruited from locally based commercial organisations and Council representatives, and its staff include specialists in economic growth, property development, communications, project management and stakeholder engagement, with a mix of backgrounds from the private and public sector. For further information about Forward Swindon and its projects, please visit: [www.forwardswindon.co.uk](http://www.forwardswindon.co.uk)

## South West Regional Development Agency

The South West Regional Development Agency (SWRDA) is a government-funded public body. It was set up (along with nine other RDAs in England) in 1999 to help improve the quality of life and economic prosperity in the South West region. The aims of SWRDA are to drive economic development and regeneration, develop business competitiveness and improve the skills base. In the Budget of June 2010 the Government confirmed that all RDAs across England, including SWRDA, will close by March 2012.

## The Technology Strategy Board

The Technology Strategy Board is a business-led government body which works to create economic growth by ensuring that the UK is a global leader in innovation. Sponsored by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS), the Technology Strategy Board brings together business, research and the public sector, supporting and accelerating the development of innovative products and services to meet market needs, tackle major societal challenges and help build the future economy. For more information please visit: [www.innovateuk.org](http://www.innovateuk.org)

## BOC

BOC is a member of The Linde Group. An industrial, medical and special gases provider, the company supplies compressed and bulk gases, chemicals and equipment. For more than a century the company's gases and expertise have contributed to advances in many areas of everyday life, and industries including steelmaking, refining, chemical processing, environmental protection, wastewater treatment, welding and cutting, food processing and distribution, glass production, electronics and health care. For more information visit: [www.BOCOnline.co.uk](http://www.BOCOnline.co.uk)

## The Linde Group

The Linde Group is a world-leading gases and engineering company with around 48,700 employees working in more than 100 countries worldwide. In the 2010 financial year, it achieved sales of EUR 12.868 billion. The strategy of The Linde Group is geared towards long-term profitable growth and focuses on the expansion of its international business with forward-looking products and services. Linde acts responsibly towards its shareholders, business partners, employees, society and the environment – in every one of its business areas, regions and locations across the globe. Linde is committed to technologies and products that unite the goals of customer value and sustainable development. For more information, see The Linde Group online at [www.linde.com](http://www.linde.com).