

P R E S S R E L E A S E

Fluorocarbon producers support ambitious mobile air-conditioning project to significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

29th June 2004 – Fluorocarbon producers¹ have today announced that they will provide over \$300,000, to help fund the Mobile Air Conditioning Climate Protection Partnership², as it seeks to deliver a programme to dramatically increase the energy efficiency and substantially reduce the greenhouse gas emissions from motor vehicle air-conditioning (A/C) systems.

The automotive air-conditioning industry has taken a lead to deliver significant and early environmental gains from enhanced system efficiency and the containment of refrigerant (HFC 134a). Their programme aims to reduce fuel consumption from the operation of vehicle A/C by at least 30% and halve direct refrigerant emissions. Initial estimates suggest that the cumulative reduction in fuel use and containment of refrigerants, will avoid more than 35 million tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions (in CO₂ equivalent) each year. When all cars have this new technology, it is estimated that improvements could save over 11 billion litres of fuel each year worldwide.

HFC 134a is used in automotive air-conditioning because of its performance and its safety profile. Its use has dramatically reduced the environmental impact of air-conditioning in motor vehicles. Nevertheless, partners in the Mobile Air-conditioning Climate Protection Project recognise that more can be done to further enhance new HFC systems, to provide significant and far-reaching environmental improvement. Initial studies support the direction being taken and support a high probability of technical and commercial success.

“The car industry worldwide is continually assessing options for future air-conditioning systems and this programme is one example of continuous improvement and innovation within the industry,” comments a spokesman for the fluorocarbon producers. “Importantly this programme will deliver benefits that can provide an almost immediate environmental gain, extending over time to over 300 million Vehicles worldwide. These improvements will set new environmental standards for air-conditioning technologies.”

¹ Atofina, DuPont, INEOS Fluor, Honeywell, Solvay and the JFMA (Japan Fluorocarbon Manufacturers Association)

² Members of the Mobile Air-Conditioning Climate protection Partnership represent industry, government and environmental advocacy organizations.

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The Mobile Air Conditioning Climate Protection Partnership is a joint effort of the Society of Automotive Engineers, The Mobile Air Conditioning Society Worldwide and the US Environment Protection Agency. The partnership includes government, academic and other scientific institutions as well as corporate partners, including the major producers of fluorocarbons.

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Note to editors:

1. The Mobile Air-conditioning Partnership has members representing industry, government, and environmental advocacy organizations. Final agreement on the ambitious collaborative programme, to deliver dramatic increases in the energy efficiency and substantial reductions in greenhouse gas emissions from the operation of motor vehicle air conditioning (A/C) systems was agreed and announced at the Mobile Air Conditioning Summit in Washington on April 15, 2004.

<http://www.sae.org/news/releases/mobileac.htm>