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Automotive and electronics industry bodies sign deal to boost UK role in low carbon vehicle sector

The automotive and electronic trade associations, SMMT and NMI, have today announced a reciprocal membership agreement that enables a closer collaboration on technology, innovation and business development between the two sectors.

The allegiance between the two bodies reflects the ever increasing importance of electronics in vehicles, especially in cutting greenhouse emissions.

Under the terms of the agreement, the organisations will develop several events and projects to raise awareness and promote opportunities for companies, universities and relevant stakeholders working in the automotive electronics field.

The first collaborative event takes place at the University of Warwick, running 22nd-23rd June. It's free to members of both organisations and has keynote addresses and presentations from Tata, Jaguar-Land Rover, and leading electronics companies engaged in the Automotive eco-system.

Further information on the Warwick based automotive innovation event can be found at:
<http://bit.ly/dkkOfThttp://www.nmi.org.uk/events/event-details/AutoLowCarb>

Paul Everitt, SMMT chief executive said, "The number of essential electronic components found within a car has increased exponentially in recent years. Greater alignment between the two sectors is essential to ensure the continued development of technology that helps to further reduce vehicle emissions."

Derek Boyd, CEO of the NMI stated, "The move to low carbon vehicles and intelligent transport systems creates new opportunities for the UK electronics industry. We're delighted to be working with SMMT to build closer linkages between electronics and automotive sectors. There is fantastic technology being developed here that will prove vital in delivering the car of the future."

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About the NMI

The National Microelectronics Institute (NMI) is the premier trade association representing the semiconductor industry in the UK and Ireland.

Its aim is to help build and support a strong micro and nanoelectronics community by acting as a catalyst and facilitator for commercial and technological development.

A not-for-profit organisation funded by its members, the NMI has a membership that spans the supply chain and includes fabless semiconductor manufacturers, IDMs, foundries, design services, IP providers, business associates, research and academic institutions.

The NMI's work includes:

- Encouraging innovation, communication and collaboration through networking, funding, brokering and sign-posting activities.

- Representing the micro and nanoelectronics sector to government, policy makers and regulators.
- Supporting skills development, education and training.
- Improving operational efficiency through benchmarking and best practice initiatives.
- Providing an industry specific information flow.

The NMI also welcomes collaborations on a national and global basis, to ensure it delivers the very best service to its members and partners. More information can be found at:
www.nmi.org.uk

About the SMMT

The Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders (SMMT) is one of the largest and most influential trade associations in the UK. It supports the interests of the UK automotive industry at home and abroad, promoting a united position to government, stakeholders and the media. The automotive industry is a vital part of the UK economy with £51 billion turnover and £10 billion value added

With over 800,000 jobs dependent on the industry, it accounts for 10% of total UK exports and invests £1 billion each year in R&D. In the last ten years, huge strides have been made to reduce the environmental impact of its products throughout the life cycle. Improvements in production processes mean energy used to produce cars is down 24%, water use is down 45% and 57% less waste enters landfill sites. Average car tailpipe CO₂ emissions have also been slashed and are down 20% compared to 1999 levels. For more details, download SMMT's tenth annual Sustainability Report or annual facts booklet from the SMMT website www.smmt.co.uk/publications.