



News Release

August 2009

DFT SELECTS AEA TO DELIVER VAN BEST PRACTICE PROGRAMME

The Department for Transport (DfT) has selected AEA, the leading climate change and energy consultancy, to deliver a programme to reduce the environmental impacts, and improve the safety of van users in England.

The Van Best Practice programme aims to improve operational efficiency within the van sector, through the provision of best practice guidance on vehicle specification, vehicle operation, and efficient driving techniques. The programme will play a key role in reducing CO₂ emissions from the van sector, and in helping to reduce the numbers of road incidents involving vans.

Delivery of the programme will be executed through a number of channels including a high profile launch, trade and consumer events, targeted campaigns and endorsement. AEA will also be responsible for a Van Best Practice web site, and for carrying out underpinning research to better understand the needs of the sector.

AEA has been awarded the contract following the completion of a successful pilot study to determine the key factors affecting the operations of the van fleet on our roads. The programme will be delivered over a period of 3 years with a value of £1.8m, funded by the DfT.

AEA also run a number of driver training schemes under the SAFED (Safe And Fuel Efficient Driving) programme. Van Best Practice will extend the scope of SAFED but will not include any formal training.

The objectives of Van Best Practice include:

- Lower CO₂ emissions
- Improved safety
- Lower operating costs through improved van specification and utilisation
- Improved air quality
- Improved investment in training and equipment
- Improvements in other areas such as journey time reliability, congestion, noise reduction, competitiveness and resilience

Commenting on the contract award, AEA's Knowledge Leader for Sustainable Transport, Sujith Kollamthodi said:

“With the increasing number of vans on the road and the growing levels of CO₂ emissions from this sector, it is becoming more important to ensure that vans are operated in an efficient and safe manner. The Van Best Practice programme will play a key role in reducing the environmental impacts of vans, as well as helping operators to cut their costs.”

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About AEA

AEA is one of the world's leaders in the field of climate change and energy consultancy - operating in the UK, Europe, the US and China. It is the leading provider of advisory services to the UK Government and works extensively with the EU and major private sector organisations. With internationally renowned expertise in air quality and climate change, carbon management, resource efficiency and the environmental impacts of

transport, AEA employs many world-leading experts and provides a high-level of policy consultancy and a range of technical services to its public and private sector clients.

AEA manages the UK government's Envirowise project, one of the world's largest resource efficiency programmes and provides carbon management expertise to many of the UK's largest private sector organisations.

AEA is voted Number One Consultancy for Climate Change and Renewables by industry consultants (Edie surveys 2006, 2007 and 2008).

For further information please visit www.aeat.co.uk.