

## **SME support: call in Worcestershire (0C38R19P 1014)**

Call to run project's enhancing the competitiveness of small and medium sized enterprises in Worcestershire

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## **SME support: call in Thames Valley Berkshire (0C03R19P 1004)**

Call for project's enhancing the competitiveness of small and medium sized enterprises in Thames Valley Berkshire

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## **Electric roadworks vehicle trial announcement**

One of the vehicles is being used across the East Midlands and the other on a major scheme which is improving the A14 in the East of England.

The trial is part of a package of air quality measures unveiled by Highways England to improve air quality along motorways and major A roads. Further measures include a barrier to be installed alongside the M1 in South Yorkshire to help improve air quality for the local community and installing more electric charge points on or near the motorway network.

The five-month trial of the electric roadworks vehicles is being funded from the company's £75million ring fenced fund designated for air quality improvements, which the company intends to spend in the current road investment period.

Highways England's Martin Bolt, Corporate Group Leader, Operations Directorate (Midlands) said:

We are actively exploring opportunities to improve air quality for those travelling on or living near our roads as well as reduce exposure for road workers. These vehicles help with that and also reduce noise for nearby residents. We are now investigating how

widely electric vehicles could sustainably be used across Highways England's roads.

Highways England is working with H W Martin (Traffic Management Ltd) to trial the vehicles, which are being used for various tasks including traffic management, maintenance operations, and the installation and removal of lane closures for construction work. Experts from the University of Bath are helping collect and analyse data as part of this scientific trial to determine what activities these new vehicles are best suited to.

Ryan Wood, Technical Manager for H W Martin (Traffic Management Ltd) said:

These two fully electric vehicles are the first of their kind to be used for roadworks on England's motorway and major A roads. Undertaking these trials will allow us to understand first-hand how the vehicles perform while carrying out different tasks and how current charging infrastructure provides a network for their use. Not only are we understanding the real-world performance of the vehicle but also how our drivers adapt their behaviour. This study allows us to continue moving our industry towards a more sustainable future.

The electric traffic management vehicle trial is running between April and August. This will be followed by a post-trial report, the results of which will inform future work around assessing how charging infrastructures are deployed for major projects and looking at the future potential for using electric roadworks vehicles.

### **General enquiries**

Members of the public should contact the Highways England customer contact centre on 0300 123 5000.

### **Media enquiries**

Journalists should contact the Highways England press office on 0844 693 1448 and use the menu to speak to the most appropriate press officer.

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## **[Injured gorge walker airlifted to hospital after complex rescue](#)**

At around 12.50pm Dyfed Powys police requested air support from HM Coastguard's ARCC (air rescue coordination centre) after a gorge walker was

reported to have fallen 20ft into shallow water near the Sgwd Gwladus waterfall in the Brecon Beacons national park.

As the helicopter arrived close to the scene, members of the public who were with the casualty alerted the coastguard helicopter to their exact position by using their mobile phone camera flashes.

The HM Coastguard St Athan helicopter was joined by the central beacons and western beacons mountain rescue teams and a hazardous area response team in what turned out to be a complex rescue involving the helicopter hovering high above the heavily wooded tree line in the steep-sided valley.

The winchman paramedic was lowered down to the casualty from 220ft using the aircraft hoist. The injured man, who had sustained a serious leg injury, was then treated on scene and placed onto the stretcher, before being recovered via another high winch.

The casualty was flown to Swansea hospital where we wish him a speedy recovery.

[Rescue](#)

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## **Information and Communications**

### **Technology: call in Enterprise M3**

### **(OC10R19P 0979)**

Call to run a project enhancing access to, and use and quality of, Information and Communications Technology in Enterprise M3.