PRESS RELEASE

ASFE announces a new member – Toyota joins efforts to promote cleaner fuels in Europe

Brussels, 19 November 2008 – ASFE, the Alliance for Synthetic Fuels in Europe, announced today that Toyota Motor Europe (TME) has joined the alliance.

Launched in March 2006 in Brussels, ASFE is a unique initiative at European level that brings together leading automotive, technology and energy companies. ASFE members are working together to promote alternative fuel options in order to significantly reduce environmental impacts and help diversify the EU energy mix through improved energy efficiency and cleaner fuels.

Synthetic fuels can be produced from biomass (BTL) or natural gas (GTL) feedstock and can be used in existing diesel engines and fuelling infrastructure. These cleaner fuels can contribute significantly to reinforcing Europe's energy security and reducing pollution in cities. Moreover, synthetic fuels made from biomass can help in combating global warming, as they can offer up to 90% CO_2 emissions reduction potential when compared with petroleum derived fuels.

Announcing the addition of a seventh member to the alliance, ASFE said today: "With Toyota Motor Europe (TME) joining the alliance, we are demonstrating that the work on synthetic fuels is of increasing significance for the industry and relevance for diversifying EU's future energy sources. TME brings invaluable technological experience to the alliance as one of the market leaders in low emission cars."

TME's General Manager for Government and Technical Affairs Stephen Stacey said: "The use of synthetic fuels is one solution we are exploring in response to the emissions challenge. Together with our partners in ASFE, we are committed to helping Europe meet its air quality and renewable energy targets, while at the same time guaranteeing high quality fuels."

This broader support for ASFE comes at a critical time, with numerous debates taking place on the EU's ambitious climate and energy package and efforts to increase energy security.

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About synthetic fuels

Synthetic fuels are a new generation of near zero sulphur and aromatics, transport fuels made with the Fischer Tropsch process from natural gas (GTL), biomass (BTL) or coal (CTL). Of the three processes, GTL is the most commercially advanced and offers a practical alternative fuel today. A number of plants are being built or planned and product availability is increasing. BTL needs further R&D investment but has the potential to use domestic resources in Europe. Greenhouse gas emissions associated with synthetic fuels derived from natural gas are comparable with transport fuels made from crude oil, while those produced from biomass can contribute to greenhouse gas reductions of up to 90%. As synthetic fuels can be used neat or blended in existing diesel engines, distribution and refueling infrastructure, they are one of the most cost effective solutions to reducing petroleum dependency. Synthetic fuels can provide significant local air quality improvement by reducing tailpipe emissions (particulate matter, nitrogen oxides, carbon monoxide and hydrocarbons).

About ASFE
Launched in March 2006 in Brussels, the Alliance for Synthetic Fuels in Europe (ASFE) is a unique initiative at the European level bringing together car manufacturers and fuel suppliers working towards reducing the environmental impact of road transport through improved energy efficiency and cleaner fuels. The members of ASFE are:

BOSCH DAIMLER RENAULT Sasol Chevron TOYOTA VOLKSWAGEN AKTIENGESELLSCHAFT

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