

U.S. Department of Energy officials recognize Indiana leadership in vehicle electrification, highlighting EnerDel, Project Plug-IN

DOE delegation visits EnerDel Indianapolis headquarters to discuss \$118M grant, receive briefing on regional demonstration project for plug-in vehicles

(INDIANAPOLIS, Ind., March 3, 2010) U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) officials traveled to Indianapolis-based EnerDel today to meet with company officials and representatives of Central Indiana's clean technology industry today, recognizing the region's emerging leadership position in vehicle electrification.

EnerDel, the only U.S. manufacturer of advanced lithium-ion batteries for hybrid and plug-in electric vehicles, received a \$118.5 million grant from the Department of Energy through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) in August. EnerDel and other partners have also joined in a major demonstration project of electric vehicles in the Greater Indianapolis region, dubbed Project Plug-IN, under the auspices of the Energy Systems Network (ESN) initiative.

The DOE team led by Gil Sperling, Senior Advisor to the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, highlighted both developments, applauding EnerDel's role in enhancing U.S. innovation and manufacturing capacity in clean energy and recognized Project Plug-IN as an important initiative that will help address the technical issues complicating the daily use of plug-in vehicles.

"The Department is pleased to support EnerDel's growth plans, putting more Hoosiers to work and advancing the administration's goal of putting a million plug-in hybrids on U.S. highways by 2015," said Sperling. "In the same vein, we're enthusiastic about the spirit of collaboration that's brought together Project Plug-IN, which we regard as a national model for how the public sector, manufacturers, utilities, and other partners can work together to make plug-ins a practical choice for the American driver."

In Project Plug-IN, 50 to 100 plug-in vehicles (many powered by EnerDel batteries) will be placed in government and corporate fleets across the Indianapolis metropolitan area with the goal of anticipating and solving the challenges that come with the use of hybrid and fully-electric plug-ins. These include the deployment of residential and public charging stations, as well as the billing issues for drivers who live and work in different utility service areas and need to re-charge their vehicles at home and at the office.

In addition to EnerDel, Project Plug-IN partners include Duke Energy, Indianapolis Power & Light, Think Global, Nissan, Smart Car (which will debut its fully-electric model in Indianapolis), the City of Indianapolis, the State of Indiana, Cummins, Bright Automotive, Delphi Corporation, IBM, Simon Property Group, Purdue University, and the Rocky Mountain Institute. The effort is managed by the Energy Systems Network, an initiative of the Central Indiana Corporate Partnership focused on clean technology development.

“Indiana is already a leader in developing and manufacturing plug-in vehicles and their components, so it just makes sense that we lead the way towards making these vehicles a more effective and efficient option for consumers,” said Paul Mitchell, President & CEO of ESN. “Project Plug-IN will make the ‘electric commute’ a reality, using Greater Indianapolis as a test market for new technologies and strategies that can be replicated across the country.”

For EnerDel, Project Plug-IN is helping maximize the potential of the U.S. plug-in market, which is fueling ambitious expansion plans supported in part by the its ARRA Department of Energy grant. The company recently announced a major manufacturing facility in Greenfield that will ultimately employ 1,100+, expanding a Greater Indianapolis footprint that already includes its northeast Indy headquarters and a battery pack assembly facility in Noblesville.

“Until now, much of the excitement surrounding our industry has been about possibilities,” said Rick Stanley, President of EnerDel. “In 2010, it’s about turning this potential into concrete business success. Funding from the Department of Energy, along with significant private investment, is helping EnerDel build the manufacturing capacity to meet the growing market demand for advanced battery technologies. We’re proud that this includes putting state-of-the-art hybrid and fully-electric vehicles on the streets right here in Indianapolis through Project Plug-IN.”