

DOE News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DOE Supports USPS Electric Vehicle Testing

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), through its Field Operations Program, is supporting the U.S. Postal Services' (USPS) purchase of 500 light-duty electric delivery vehicles from Ford Motor Company by providing vehicle testing and technical support to the USPS.

DOE will spend up to \$2 million for the vehicle testing, data validation, and dissemination of the testing results, to help demonstrate the capabilities of the 500 light-duty electric delivery vehicles. The vehicle chassis, drive train, batteries, and electric components are all based on the Ford Ranger electric vehicle. The electric delivery vehicles have the same appearance as gasoline-powered USPS delivery vehicles but are quiet and have zero emissions.

The testing and demonstration activities include baseline performance testing, accelerated reliability testing, onboard data collection, field testing at three USPS locations in California and New York, and a final analysis of the entire 500 vehicle demonstration program. All of the testing results will be available from the Field Operations Program's WebPage (<http://ev.inel.gov/fop>).

Southern California Edison's Electric Vehicle Technical Center (EVTC) has completed the baseline performance testing on two vehicles and the results are available in the October and December 2000, Quarterly Reports. The report is available at (http://ev.inel.gov/fop/fpd/us_ps_12_15_00.pdf) or the program's Web Page. The tests included gradeability, maximum speed, several range tests, energy consumption, water hazards, and charger performance tests.

SCE's EVTC also is performing accelerated reliability testing on two additional vehicles; each one will accumulate a total of 20,000 miles within one year. To date, each vehicle has accumulated more than 15,000 miles. Mileage, energy use, and ambient temperatures are collected whenever the vehicles are driven. In addition, the vehicle range is periodically tested on the Pomona Urban Loop. Vehicle downtime and energy costs are also tracked. The results, through March 2001, are available in the March Quarterly Report at (http://ev.inel.gov/fop/fpd/uspost03_01.pdf). As the testing continues, quarterly reports will continue to be posted on the Field Operations Program's Web Pages.

The results of the testing will assist the USPS in its decision to purchase up to 5,500 additional light-duty electric delivery vehicles from Ford Motor Company,

as well as support the overall development and deployment of electric vehicles and electric vehicle charging infrastructure.

In addition to the above USPS activities, DOE, through its Field Operations Program, provides testing and evaluation of electric and hybrid vehicles, as well as other advanced technology vehicles.

These elements of the Field Operations Program are managed for the DOE Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy from the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory in Idaho Falls, Idaho. For more information, visit the Field Operations Program Web Page <http://ev.inel.gov/fop> or contact Jim Francfort at francfje@inel.gov (208) 526-6787.

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Media contact: Steve Zollinger, 208-526-9590, gaz@inel.gov
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