



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NEWS

URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

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UMTA 75-20
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The U. S. Department of Transportation's Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA) today announced the award of two contracts totaling \$2 million for the design and fabrication of two steam-powered prototypes of a low-pollution para-transit vehicle. The contracts are based on a government cost ceiling of \$1 million each.

The contracts for the production of the two independently designed vehicles are being awarded to:

- o AMF, Inc., Advanced Systems Laboratory,
Santa Barbara, California, \$1,000,000
- o Steam Power Systems (SPS),
San Diego, California, \$1,000,000

The specially designed vehicles are for use in para-transit service. Para-transit service includes all transit services falling between regular, scheduled mass transit services and travel by private automobile. Typical examples are dial-a-ride, jitney and taxicab service.

The vehicles will be propelled by steam engines which produce an exhaust gas inherently low in pollutant emissions. Because the engines are based on external combustion, they will accept a wide range of fuels.

The engine to be used in the AMF vehicle is the improved version of an engine developed by Jay Carter Enterprises, Burkburnett, Texas,

and tested by the Environmental Protection Agency.

The vehicle to be developed by Steam Power Systems will use the improved version of an engine demonstrated in an automobile built for the California Clean Car Project. The improvements in both engines are designed to increase fuel efficiency and power output.

The prototypes will include such special features as ease of entry and exit for elderly and handicapped passengers (including persons confined to wheelchairs), high maneuverability in congested city streets, improved space utilization and other features not obtainable by simple modifications to standard passenger cars.

The vehicles must be capable of carrying one wheelchair passenger and two regular passengers in the handicapped version or five passengers in the regular version. The vehicles must be easily convertible from the one version to the other.

The prototype vehicles are scheduled for delivery to UMTA on or before May 1970. Additional plans include the testing of both vehicles, under separate contract, by an independent laboratory. Public display of the vehicles is planned following completion of testing.

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For further information contact the UMTA Office of Public Affairs at (202) 426-4043.

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