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Contact: Joe Marshall
(202) 426-4043

BALTIMORE SELECTED AS SITE FOR GAS TURBINE BUS TEST

Baltimore, Md., has been selected as the initial "proving ground" for a promising automotive technology that is not dependent upon petroleum as its source of power, Secretary of Transportation Brock Adams said today.

In the next eight to 12 months, with the help of a \$170,620 federal grant, as many as five transit buses equipped with prototype gas turbine engines are expected to be placed in revenue service in the Baltimore area.

"When I recently challenged the automotive industry to join with government in the effort to develop the technology to reduce our dependency upon petroleum," Secretary Adams said, "I expressed the opinion that federally sponsored research and development can be the catalyst for that effort."

"The gas turbine project, jointly sponsored by the Departments of Transportation and Energy in cooperation with industry, is an excellent example of how such a joint effort can advance propulsion technology," Adams said.

Gas turbines, unlike conventional gasoline and diesel engines, do not require highly refined petroleum fuels. Generally, any fuel that can be properly delivered to the combustor can be burned in a gas turbine engine.

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In addition to gasoline and diesel fuels, possible fuels for transit buses equipped with gas turbines include alcohols, liquified natural gas, liquified hydrogen and vegetable or mineral oils.

The fuel storage, delivery and metering systems must be modified to accomodate each of the alternative fuels.

The Baltimore demonstration of prototype engines is the first phase of a three-phase demonstration project expected to extend over eight years.

In the program's second phase, up to 10 buses equipped with pre-production model gas turbine engines will be placed in service in two cities yet to be selected. Phase three will test up to 10 production models in two other cities.

The engines will be tested for their potential to improve fuel-economy, safety, reliability, reduced exhaust emissions and lower noise and vibration levels.

The Department of Energy's Division of Transportation Energy Conservation has overall responsibility for the project. DOT's Urban Mass Transportation Administration will manage the public transit demonstration.

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A local source for additional information is Bruce Frame, Marketing Director, 109 East Redwood Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21202. (301) 383-3434 (MD-06-0059).

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