



News Briefs

www.cngvc.org

Secretary of Energy to Keynote Green Truck Summit U.S. Secretary of Energy Steven Chu will give the keynote address at the 2012 Green Truck Summit on March 5.

Coalition President Tim Carmichael will also be a speaker at the summit.

The event takes place March 5-6 in conjunction with the Work Truck Show 2012 at the Indiana Convention Center in Indianapolis.

Jointly produced by the National Truck Equipment Association (NTEA) and CALSTART, the summit will offer 29 educational sessions showcasing new technology and providing information on reducing fuel consumption, improving fleet management, comparing clean technology options, funding clean vehicles, and more.

Register for the Green Truck Summit and the Work Truck Show at the [NTEA site](#).

GO Group Converting to CNG Airport shuttle company GO Group is converting all or parts of its fleets at U.S. airports to either CNG or propane. At San Francisco International Airport, GO Lorries has switched 16 vans to CNG, with another 28 to be retrofitted for CNG by May.

The company, which serves all major Southern California airports, is currently studying how to best convert its fleets in that part of the state.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Vehicles

Chrysler May Debut NGVs in 2012

CEO says natural gas pickups will be available to fleets this year, but 'stay tuned' for official confirmation

Chrysler plans to start selling natural gas-powered pickup trucks to fleets this year, the automaker's top executive said earlier this month in an interview with Bloomberg at the North American International Auto Show in Detroit.

"We are going to bring them here, there is no doubt," said Sergio Marchionne, CEO of Chrysler Group and Fiat SpA, which owns 58.5 percent of Chrysler. He noted that availability will be limited at first.

Chrysler spokesman Vince Muniga told *CaINGV News* that the company is not in a position to talk about the natural gas pickup truck launch yet, but will have an official announcement later this year. "All I can tell you is, stay tuned," he said.

'We've been anticipating Chrysler's re-entry into the U.S. NGV market for quite some time.'

Based on earlier reports about Marchionne's plans, it seems likely that Chrysler will introduce natural gas pickups under the Ram brand name using the natural gas platform developed by Fiat. Fiat is the market leader in Europe in natural gas engines, with an 80 percent share of car sales and 55 percent of light commercial vehicles, according to an earlier Bloomberg report.

Passenger cars were expected "With Fiat's leadership selling natural gas vehicles globally we've been anticipating Chrysler's re-entry into the U.S. NGV market for quite some time," says Coalition

President Tim Carmichael. "We believe there is very good potential for natural gas pickups in California, especially as petroleum prices are expected to rise in 2012. It is exciting to see Chrysler moving on this market."

Marchionne has called natural gas engines the "best option" among alternative fuel vehicle technologies. The head of Fiat's Iveco truck unit has pegged the additional cost for an engine using natural gas at \$3,000, compared with \$3,300 for diesel and \$8,000 for an electric hybrid.

CEO sees greater demand This wouldn't be Chrysler's first foray into selling NGVs in the U.S., but Marchionne said he foresees stronger demand for NGVs this time around due to the price of fuel. In the mid-1990s Chrysler sold CNG minivans in California, and in the late 1990s the company sold a CNG Ram van, used by SuperShuttle and other fleets. ▶

Inside

- **Infrastructure:** 98 new LNG stations are on the map
- **R&D Funding:** CEC solicits LNG research proposals

News Briefs

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Greenkraft Seeks Dealer Applications Greenkraft is seeking California dealerships for its line of Class 3–7 CNG cab-forward trucks. The trucks are manufactured as dedicated CNG vehicles and qualify for the California Energy Commission's buy-down incentive for NGVs.

See the company's [website](#) for contact information.

Clean Truck Program Reaches Milestone The Port of Los Angeles' Clean Truck Program recently marked a major milestone: every local short-haul (drayage) truck calling at the port must now meet the strictest clean air and safety standards of any major port in the world, said port authorities in a statement.

Calendar

2012 Alternative Clean Transportation (ACT) Expo | May 14–17, Long Beach

ACT Expo showcases the latest in advanced clean vehicle technologies and funding opportunities. Early Bird registration ends March 1.

Get details [here](#).

CaNGV News is published biweekly by the California Natural Gas Vehicle Coalition.

Editor: Thinkshift Communications

© 2012 California Natural Gas Vehicle Coalition. All rights reserved.

Contact the CNGVC at:

1029 K Street, Suite 24
Sacramento, CA 95814

phone: 916-448-0015

fax: 916-448-7176

e-mail: editor@cngvc.org

Infrastructure

Clean Energy IDs 98 LNG Locations

Clean Energy has announced 98 locations for LNG fueling stations along the route it dubs America's Natural Gas Highway. Company officials say they should have 70 of the stations open in 33 states by the end of this year.

The first phase of Clean Energy's LNG infrastructure project is expected to total 150 new LNG stations, many of them located at Pilot-Flying J Travel Centers. Clean Energy has an agreement with Pilot-Flying J—the nation's largest truck-stop operator, with more than 550 retail properties in 47 states—to build, own, and operate natural gas fueling facilities at agreed-upon travel centers.

Major highway segments planned for early opening include: San Diego-Los Angeles-Riverside-Las Vegas; Houston-San Antonio-Dallas; Los Angeles-Dallas; Houston-Chicago; Chicago-Atlanta; and a network of stations along major highways in the Midwest to serve the heavy trucking traffic in that region.

Stations will serve new trucks Scheduled for completion during 2012 and 2013, the 150 first-phase stations coincide with the expected arrival of new natural gas truck engines—from manufacturers including Cummins Westport, Kenworth, Peterbilt, Navistar, Freightliner, and Caterpillar—that are well suited for heavy-duty, over-the-road trucking.

"We are moving quickly to build this important network in order to support the new trucks," said Andrew J. Littlefair, Clean Energy president and CEO. Littlefair noted that the Natural Gas Highway stations are in addition to the stations planned for the company's traditional fleet markets, which accounted for 63 projects in 2011.

Last year, investors put a total of \$450 million into Clean Energy for fueling station infrastructure development and other capital projects. ▶

R&D Funding

CEC Issues LNG Fueling Study RFP

The CEC has issued an RFP for \$3 million for research and development projects that would reduce or remove the barriers to expanding the LNG vehicle fueling infrastructure.

Public Interest Energy Research solicitation RFP 500-11-503 seeks proposals that address one or more of these subjects:

- Improving the handling of LNG dispensing
- Improving the reliability of LNG dispensing
- Improving the durability of LNG dispensing
- Minimizing the likelihood of vapor release
- Improving station-vehicle interface issues that affect station design or operation

"Growth of the LNG vehicle market would be accelerated if certain technical and economic barriers ... were removed or reduced," the solicitation notes. "These barriers currently inhibit investment decisions by vehicle and equipment manufacturers as well as LNG truck purchase decisions. Removing these barriers would result in more heavy-duty NGVs on the road, reducing petroleum dependence and [greenhouse gas] emissions."

Eligible projects must involve LNG fuel infrastructure technology or process R&D activities that are likely to remove or reduce barriers currently affecting the expansion of LNG use as a transportation fuel.

A pre-bid conference is scheduled for Jan. 23, and a Q&A document will be distributed Feb. 3. The deadline to submit proposals is 3 p.m. on Feb. 17. ▶