Eco-Innovation Opportunities and challenges

Dr Jonathan Frost

Director, Johnson Matthey Fuel Cells



Outline

- What drives innovation and investment
- Examples
 - Fuel Economy
 - Vehicle emissions
- Making markets for the things we want
- Regulation and procurement



Innovation

- Innovation is hard
 - it takes a long time to come to fruition
 - Its not been done before so its risky
 - It requires us to think ahead about unmet needs
- It doesn't happen unless its really necessary
 - Survival
 - No other way of meeting a real need
- If it is necessary its almost impossible to stop
- Necessity the mother of innovation



Innovation and Research

- Research is a process of turning money into knowledge
- Innovation does the opposite
- Don't know the results of Research in advance
- Innovation always targeted on outcomes
- For innovation the key success factor is an accurate understanding of the unmet need it is targeting







Environmental markets

- Problems are well known
- Public is sympathetic
- No shortage of ideas
- So why is progress so slow ?
- Current solutions too costly, inconvenient, risky or just plain ugly
- Need new products investment and product innovation
- No market pull for things that don't exist And anyway markets can't price environmental benefits
- Unless society gives benefits a value the case for investment and innovation in the sector is weak



Environment and society

- In many cases the public sector can cherry pick investment and product innovation from other sectors
- Waiting for private market forces to deliver new and better sustainable or environmental products does not work.
- The environment has value only if society gives it value
- This gives a special responsibility to society and its agents to manage supply chains to deliver new products with sustainability and environmental benefits designed in.



Pricing externalities is not enough

- Future environmental markets are not visible to today's investment decisions
- Is establishing a future market by price signals such as fiscal measures or tradable permits the answer ?
- Not sufficient to drive innovation
- Eg Fuel duty on petrol and diesel



Effects of pricing mechanisms

- Carbon tax on motor fuel
- US £100/ 1000kg carbon
- UK £750/ 1000kg carbon
- Consistently applied for last 20-25 years
- Other countries available for comparison





Source: US EPA, EPA420-S-05-001, July 2005



Weight and Performance

(Three Year Moving Average)



Consumers have taken improved Engine performance as safety (weight) And performance

Rather than fuel economy



We have been here before

- 30 years ago air quality was becoming a critical concern
- Existing approaches including clean burn engines and better fuel quality could help but these were intrinsically limited other approaches looked risky and expensive
- However some visionary decisions were made and history showed that the apparently unreasonable demand for much higher standards was actually rather modest





North American Emissions Standards



Regulation

- Regulation can create a future market prospect that drives innovation and investment at little or no cost to the consumer.
- Fuel Cells created by the California ZEV mandate some \$12 billion of private investment

It must be

- So bold that current options can't meet the need
- Long range to allow innovation time to work
- Progressive to drive continuing investment
- Credible don't rely on taxes, subsidies etc
- Simple carbon pricing doesn't drive innovation it might help diffusion once the innovation is in the market place



Regulation is also not enough

- Emission control regulations worked because the delivery supply chain already existed and was competent
- Leading edge regulation in California has not created an industry in California in cars, emission control or fuel cells
- Delivery is all about having an effective supply chain
- Jobs and economic advantage lie in the supply chain
- Innovation comes from the lower reaches of the supply chain
- The need for innovation, the management and direction comes from the top of the chain
- In the environment sector society has the need its agents are the supply chain managers – given the right lead the private sector will deliver the investment and the benefits



Creating and managing supply chains

- Forward Commitment Procurement a tool for public supply chain management
- A commitment to purchase in the future a product which:
 - Doesn't yet exist in the market place
 - Against a specification that current products don't meet
- Works best in conjunction with regulation that requires the higher specification
- Makes future needs visible to today's investment decisions.



Forward Commitment Procurement

- EIAG/Defra/DTI/ OGC / HMPS, pioneering the demonstration of FCP in practice to thrash out the issues and document the process
- Zero waste prison mattresses
- Call for solutions issued (PIN in the EJ)
- 33 responses



HMPS Zero Waste Mattress Response to Marketing Sounding



Next stages

- Critical role for cities, regions and RDA's
- Identify opportunities
 - Eg Town and City regeneration (Swindon and SWRDA)
 - Eg Transport (low carbon buses, zero emission zones)
 - Eg Waste
 - Eg Water
- Advertise and aggregate unmet needs an unmet needs portal to link needs with solutions via KTN's, innovation centres etc



The **Opportunity**

- By making problems into opportunities we can mobilise investment and innovation
- Its not just a case of removing barriers, supporting R&D, setting targets and hoping good things will happen ...
- Demonstrate a real need and people will beat a path to your door
- There are spectacular gains to be made if we get it right

