

The UK to start testing wireless powering of electric vehicles

The UK will start trials later this year to power electronic and hybrid vehicles wirelessly, therefore avoiding continuous stops along the road to charge-up, the Government has announced.

With the aim of allowing drivers of ultra-low emission vehicles to travel long distances without stopping to charge, they look to develop the wireless technology along the UK's motorways and major A roads.

"The potential to recharge low emission vehicles on the move offers exciting possibilities. The government is already committing £500 million over the next five years to keep Britain at the forefront of this technology, which will help boost jobs and growth in the sector," said Transport Minister Andrew Jones.

The trials are to begin off roads later this year. After an 18 month period, and subject to the results, it would be followed by on road trials.

"The off road trials of wireless power technology will help to create a more sustainable road network for England and open up new opportunities for businesses that transport goods across the country," said Highways England Chief Highways Engineer Mike Wilson.

Apart from a commitment to the development of wireless technology, Highways England is also planning a long-term installation of plug-in charging points every 20 miles on the motorway network as part of the government's Road Investment Strategy.

There are currently 40,000 registered electronic vehicles (EVs) in the UK, while there are around 8,700 charging points in the country. The sector has enjoyed exponential growth as it went from 3,500 registered EVs in 2013 to almost 40,000 by June of 2015, according to the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders.