

TRANSPORT WHITE PAPER

Position Paper of the Nickel Institute

May 2011

Nickel with its wide range of applications in transportation and infrastructure will be of key importance to achieve the targets set in the European Commission Transport White Paper.

The Nickel Institute takes note of the recently published Transport White Paper from the European Commission “Roadmap to a Single European Transport Area – Towards a competitive and resource efficient transport system¹”. Overall, it believes that nickel will make an important contribution to achieving the objectives set out in this strategic plan by serving as important inputs into the delivery of required physical infrastructure and new technologies.

The Nickel Institute is very willing to work with the European Parliament, the European Commission and EU Member States on its development and roll-out. Furthermore, it awaits with great interest the legislative proposals that will follow in the next decade.

Sustainable Mobility

The Nickel Institute supports the objective of putting mobility on a sustainable path. It recognises that Europe faces a formidable balancing act. According to the White Paper the cost of EU infrastructure development to match the demand for transport has been estimated at over € 1.5 trillion for 2010-2030. While this investment is essential for mobility and economic development, a reduction of at least 60% of GHGs by 2050 with respect to 1990 is required from the transport sector. It is therefore essential that the investment is highly green and sustainable. Nickel is part of the solution to achieving more sustainable mobility. It is a high performance material that plays a key role in highly efficient, long-life components that enable clean, efficient energy, including batteries for electrical and hybrid cars, efficient gas turbines for power generation, wind turbines, fuel cells, aviation and solar power.

Nickel metal hydride batteries allow hybrid cars to produce up to 50% less harmful pollutants and greenhouse gases than comparable petrol / gasoline cars allowing it to support greener transport.

Leveraging New Technologies

¹ <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2011:0144:FIN:EN:PDF>

The Nickel Institute welcomes the commitment by the Commission to devise an innovation and deployment strategy for the transport sector. The White Paper correctly points out that new technologies for vehicles and traffic management will be key to lower transport emissions in the EU as in the rest of the world. Indeed, other regions of the world could gain from Europe sharing its green ideas and technological leadership. Nickel can make a valuable contribution to supporting the deployment of new technologies as nickel-containing materials are essential to provide the performance and durability requirements. Nickel is essential in high end alloy applications used in many innovation technologies in sectors like transport, energy storage, IT and environmental technologies.

Nickel is a component in a wide range of battery types including Li Ion batteries as well as certain types of fuel cells and therefore makes an important contribution to the delivery of clean and efficient vehicles.

Infrastructure that lasts

The Nickel Institute supports the objective of a core network of strategic European infrastructure. Moreover, it welcomes the proposals to develop a new funding framework for transport infrastructure. Physical Transport infrastructure built on strong sustainable foundations is required for reaching the objectives desired by 2050. Nickel and nickel containing materials such as stainless steel is highly suitable for supporting these sturdy foundations. It is a vital raw material in many downstream and end user sectors as shown in the criticality assessment of the Raw Materials Initiative. Furthermore, Nickel can be recycled without degradation in quality. Its high economic value at the products end of life ensures their collection and recycling. Its use therefore helps the Transport policy to fit with the EU's Resource Efficiency Flagship.

Thanks to their high performance and durability, nickel-containing materials already play key roles in the transport and infrastructure of today. Thanks to the same characteristics, they are set to do the same in the innovative solutions needed for tomorrow.

The Nickel Institute is a nonprofit organization that represents the interests of 27 companies which together produce more than 75% of the world's annual nickel output. We promote on behalf of our members the production, use and re-use (through recycling) of nickel in a socially and environmental responsible manner.

Nickel Institute

Brussels Office

Avenue des Arts/Kunstlaan, 13

B-1210 Brussels-Belgium

Tel : +32.(0)2.290.32.08

Fax : +32.(0)2.290.32.20

E-mail : mmistry@nickelinstitute.org

Web : www.nickelinstitute.org