Technology Request

Seeking a designer and manufacturer of plastic automotive products to assist a UK based company to develop a new sleeper cab (pod) for commercial vehicles.

Summary

A UK based producer of bespoke trucks, lorries and vans is developing a new sleeper cab (pod) for large vehicles. The company is seeking a manufacturer that specialises in designing and manufacturing large plastic products for the automotive industry to enter into a technical cooperation and manufacturing agreement. The company is developing a sleeping cab for commercial vehicles that will be retractable, manufactured from plastics and fitted to various sizes and types of vehicles.

Creation Date	02 July 2015
Last Update	17 July 2015
Expiration Date	16 July 2016
Reference	TRUK20150630002

Details

Description

This UK based manufacturer specialises in designing, building and manufacturing tailored bodies for commercial vehicles. Vehicle sizes range from 3.5 tonne to 26 tonne and include temperature controlled, dry freight, livestock and removal vehicles.

The company was created in 1999 and the owner has 45 years experience of working within the industry. Eighteen months ago the owner decided to differentiated the company from standard vehicle body manufactures by undertaking bespoke, one-off or limited run projects. This was mainly due to a high number of larger manufacturers driving down prices for standard high volume commercial vehicles.

The company is in the concept stage of designing a new sleeping pod that can be retrofitted to the drivers cab of existing vehicles or incorporated into new. The pod will fold out from the top of the drivers cab and provide space to sleep two people. In transit the cab will be folded down to improve the aerodynamics and fuel efficiency of the vehicle. It will also provide a comfortable and spacious area for the driver(s) to sleep.

Traditional sleeping pods/areas are manufactured using fibre glass but the company would like to develop their product using plastics. This will create a lighter weight product that will be fully recyclable at the end of its life.

The company would like to identify a partner which specialises in manufacturing large plastic products for the automotive industry (i.e. bumpers) to assist in the design and development of the product. Ideally the partner should be based in the UK, Germany, Belgium or France, but companies in other countries will be considered.

The companies will work together under a technical cooperation agreement to develop and prototype the product. If the partnership is successful then the companies will work under a manufacturing agreement for the partner to supply the finished product to the UK company. Currently the potential number of pods is unknown but this will be explored further during the development of the product.

Technical Specification or Expertise Sought

- The plastic pod should be strong enough to be used on the front of a vehicle and perform in the same way as traditional fibre glass alternatives
- The design of the pod will need to be flexible so it can be fitted to various sizes and types of vehicles
- Support is also required to develop the brackets and folding mechanism
- At this stage the cost and quantity of pods is unknown

Stage of Development

Concept stage

Comments Regarding Stage of Development

This project is at the concept stage but is built on 45 years experience of manufacturing commercial vehicle bodies. The company feels this is a product that would be attractive to their customers and will enhance their current product portfolio.

The product is at a very early stage of design and a partner is required who has the experience of working in the automotive industry and has the equipment to manufacture plastic products.

The company requires the following assistance:

- To finalise the development and design of the product
- To prototype of the product

If successful a partnership could be formed to supply the final product(s).

Keywords

Technology

002007014	Plastics, Polymers
002009001	Design of Vehicles
002009004	Road Vehicles
002009009	Lightweight construction
002009027	Body and main parts

Market

009001002	Trucking
009001005	Motor vehicles, transportation equipment and parts

NACE

C.29.2.0	Manufacture of bodies (coachwork) for motor vehicles; manufacture of trailers and semi-trailers

Dissemination

Send to Sector Group

Automotive, Transport and Logistics

Client

Type and Size of Organisation Behind the Profile

Industry SME 11-49

Year Established

1999

Turnover

<1M

Already Engaged in Trans-National Cooperation

No.

Languages Spoken

English

Client Country

United Kingdom

Partner Sought

Type and Role of Partner Sought

A plastics manufacturer (from industry) that has experience of developing, designing and supplying plastics products to the automotive industry

The partner could be any size but ideally located in either Germany, France, Belgium or the UK

The partner will be expected to develop the project jointly and supply the finished product if development is successful

Type and Size of Partner Sought

SME 11-50,SME <10,251-500,SME 51-250,>500

Type of Partnership Considered

Manufacturing agreement
Technical cooperation agreement

Small rescue vehicle to access difficult-to-reach locations

Summary

A German company is offering a newly designed mobile rescue vehicle, which makes it possible to reach difficulty locations without problems. The rescue vehicle guarantees a higher success rate as the rescue team will be enabled to reach locations that could not be reached by conventional rescue vehicles. The company is looking for commercial and/or manufacturing agreements. Also a technical co-operation agreement and/or joint venture could be imaginated.

Creation Date	18 May 2015
Last Update	17 July 2015
Expiration Date	16 July 2016
Reference	TODE20150428004

Details

Description

The inventor is a small and medium sized enterprise, located in the heart of the German region of Saxony, which is well known for machine tools since the beginning of the last century. After its business start-up in a technology centre, the company changed its location to an Industrial park. Since there is a constant growth of employees.

The rescue vehicle is one of a range of prototypes it developed in the last years.
The rescue vehicle is a very mobile, small and light vehicle for up to two passengers. The vehicle could be used in recovery, rescue, and fire fighting
in locations that are inaccessible via conventional means.
Also locations that were only accessible on foot by a rescue team under physical strain and potentially posing risks to health and safety can now be reached.
The company is looking for commercial and/or manufacturing agreements. Also a technical co-operation and joint venture could be imaginated.

Advantages and Innovations

Advantages and Innovations The rescue vehicle is a very mobile, small and light and a completely new development on the market. The vehicle could be used in recovery, rescue, and fire fighting in locations that are inaccessible via conventional means.

Main advantages are:

- Minimises exposure of the rescue team to pollution or extreme temperatures.
- The vehicle does not have a combustion engine, making it possible to operate in locations with minimal air ventilation (e.g. in rooms or tunnels).
- Because of the compact construction, the small vehicle can pass through normal doors and also in passenger lifts and it is equipped to operate on escalators. It can also be used as complimentary equipment in conventional fire-fighting vehicles.
- It is common that there is no water connection at the location of a fire. The mobile rescue vehicle can be equipped with a water tank that then can aid fire extinction escalators. It can also be used as complimentary equipment in conventional fire-fighting vehicles.
- It is common that there is no water connection at the location of a fire. The mobile rescue vehicle can be equipped with a water tank that then can aid fire extinction.
- Modular system: the user can assemble the firefighting vehicle according to his/her specific needs.
- Rescue workers and fire fighters don't have to go on foot to the rescue site; hence they can concentrate their efforts on saving lives.

Other advantages are the wide range of usage options:
- Fire brigades.
- Rescue services.
- Cleaning services.
- Social aid organisations.

Stage of Development

Already on the market

IPR Status

Secret Know-how

Profile Origin

Private (in-house) research

Keywords

Technology

001003003	Applications for Transport and Logistics
002009002	Hybrid and Electric Vehicles
010001007	Assessment of Environmental Risk and Impact

Market

008003007	Other industrial equipment and machinery
009003007	Other services (not elsewhere classified)

NACE

C.28.9.9	Manufacture of other special-purpose machinery n.e.c.

Dissemination

Send to Sector Group

Automotive, Transport and Logistics

Client

Type and Size of Organisation Behind the Profile

Industry SME 50-249

Year Established

1990

Turnover

<1M

Already Engaged in Trans-National Cooperation

Yes

Languages Spoken

English
German

Client Country

Germany

Partner Sought

Type and Role of Partner Sought

The company seeks for producer of parts from reinforced fibre glas plastic for manufacturing of car body parts and peripheral equipment and provider of rescue technique.
The company is able to perform field installation.

Type and Size of Partner Sought

SME 11-50,SME <10,>500 MNE,251-500,SME 51-250,>500

Type of Partnership Considered

Manufacturing agreement
Commercial agreement with technical assistance
Technical cooperation agreement
Joint venture agreement