

## **Prodrive Powertrain Technology Centre**



Prodrive is a world-leading motorsport and advanced technology business based in Banbury adjacent to the M40. They strive to challenge convention and by combining their motorsport ethos with free thinking, they have created innovative solutions to short timescales, which has inspired their customers to realise their ambitions. They have assisted various brands achieve success in motorsport and are the business behind some of the greatest names and achievements in motorsport. Help is provided to their customers that then enables them to accelerate the development and deployment of Net Zero engineering solutions in the mobility sector, and beyond.

Prodrive's Powertrain Technology Centre won the Engine Test Facility of the Year Award from Automotive Testing International magazine. The centre, at Prodrive's headquarters at Banbury, was opened in 2019 and allows the company to accelerate the development of the new generation of alternative-fuel powertrains and internal combustion engines. The organisation has now developed a sustainable fuel using the facility which reduces CO2 emissions by 80%.

The facility was completed with help from OxLEP (Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership) via the Government's Local Growth Fund to the tune of a grant of £500,000. This was spent in full, and the slight cost overrun of £190,049 was funded by Prodrive themselves, taking the level of match funding to £1,765,444.

The project supported by OxLEP has delivered an industry leading high technology transient dynamometer, rated at 660kW, one of the most powerful of its kind in the UK, which with temperature, humidity, and transient pressure-controlled induction air, can replicate most running conditions. It also provides powerful cooling for Internal Combustion engines and electric vehicle (EV) components including batteries and motors. The installation of the dynamometer within the facility removed the need to send engines (for testing) to an outside organisation.



This new facility supported the creation of 25 new jobs (against a target of 23) and ensured that Prodrive was more self-sufficient which, during the Covid-19 pandemic, proved to be invaluable in delivering their projects as they were not reliant on 3<sup>rd</sup> parties for such a key part of the project and has helped to diversify the business from just one major race programme (Aston Martin Racing) to three:

- Aston Martin Racing
- Bahrain Raid Xtreme
- Lewis Hamilton's X44 Extreme E