



Press release:

Tuesday, 6 July 2021

HRH Prince of Wales visits hydrogen car maker Riversimple as part of Welsh tour

The visit underscores Prince Charles' commitment to the environment – HRH test-drove the zero-emission, hydrogen-powered Rasa and toured the car company's Llandrindod Wells HQ

On the second day of his Welsh tour, HRH the Prince of Wales spent the morning at Riversimple's HQ in Llandrindod Wells, Powys. Riversimple are producing hydrogen electric cars that emit nothing from the tailpipe but a drop of water, and have plans for two manufacturing plants in Wales, with aims to create high-skilled jobs in the region.

As well as test-driving a hydrogen electric Rasa – one of the greenest cars on Earth – Prince Charles also toured the workshop to meet the engineers and technicians behind Riversimple's pioneering technology. The Rasa's stability and quick acceleration impressed Prince Charles. Hugo Spowers, MD and founder of the company, said: "It was great fun being the Prince of Wales' passenger in the Rasa and it was wonderful to have the opportunity to share our plans for creating a new, sustainable manufacturing business in mid-Wales."

The Rasa is an ultra-lightweight and super-efficient two-seater – with a 300 mile range. Refuelling the Rasa with hydrogen takes just a few minutes. Riversimple are currently beta-testing their vehicles with the general public in Abergavenny, where they have also installed a hydrogen refueller.

As well as the Rasa, Riversimple have a hydrogen electric van in the pipeline. Riversimple is researching potential sites for two manufacturing plants in Powys – each creating c.220 direct jobs for skilled staff with an additional c.600 in the supply chain.

Riversimple are also partners in the Milford Haven: Energy Kingdom in the Port of Milford Haven, which is exploring the use of green hydrogen in local energy systems.

A number of organisations keen to support the company in its ambitions were present, such as the Development Bank of Wales, Barclays, DHL, Siemens and Oil 4 Wales, which has 30 fuel stations across Wales and is committed to transitioning to green fuels on their forecourts.

More information

Riversimple's Purpose is "To pursue, systematically, the elimination of the environmental impact of personal transport". The company is designed from every angle to make sustainability profitable, in the design of the product, the business model and the governance.

The Rasa is a lightweight, super-efficient, two-seat electric car powered by hydrogen and is the first of a range of vehicles that Riversimple plans to offer customers. It will be followed by a light commercial van for last mile delivery and a family vehicle.

The Rasa emits nothing but pure water vapour and is designed to minimise the particulates from tyres and brakes with its low weight, skinny tyres and highly regenerative braking. The Rasa's performance:

- 0-60mph in under 9.7 seconds
- Cruises at 60mph
- Has a range of c.300 miles
- Takes 3 minutes to fill
- Weighs just 655kg
- It achieves the equivalent of c.250mpg

Riversimple are currently building Rasas for trials with the general public, both in Monmouthshire where they have installed a refueller in the town centre of Abergavenny, and in Milford Haven, Pembrokeshire, as part of the Milford Haven: Energy Kingdom demonstration of a local green energy system. These trials are being supported with grants from OLEV and Innovate UK respectively and the unanimous response from testers so far is that the cars are fun to drive.

The company is also crowdfunding through the [Seedrs](#) platform.

Images are available from the Royal Rota

For more information please contact [Fiona Spowers](#) or visit riversimple.com

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