Riversimple Rasa hydrogen/electric powered vehicles to be produced in Wales...

Published: February 10, 2021

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Online version: https://www.wheels-alive.co.uk/riversimple-rasa-hydrogen-electric-powered-vehicles-to-be-produced-in-wales/



Hydrogen powered vehicles to be built in Wales… Robin Roberts reports

One of the world's leading technology companies has stepped up its plans to build hydrogen vehicles in Wales for global sale.

Siemens UK has signed a memorandum of understanding with Riversimple, of Llandrindod Wells to make their Rasa car and a local delivery van.

The car is already being prepared for trials with 12 drivers living in Abergavenny and the Welsh company installed a hydrogen filling station for them to use free of charge. Riversimple is in the process of raising £150M over the next three years to go into mass production with the car appearing in two years and the van about 12 months later.

In a press release today (10th February 2021), both companies said it was their intention to use the MOU to progress Riversimple's sustainability initiatives and ensure local component

sourcing, local job creation and training as well as putting the operation on a firm financial footing.

Production will eventually utilise two sites and create up to 220 jobs in each, probably in the Mid-Wales area and aiming for 5,000 vehicles annually from each.

Hugo Spowers, MD of Riversimple, said, “Siemens is involved in green energy generation and has a history of enabling technology companies like ours.

They share our passion for sustainability, hydrogen and the circular economy and have deep expertise in technology software and plant simulation as well as financing the tech sector.We are very much looking forward to building this relationship.”

Co-director Fiona Spowers said it was a major vote of confidence for Riversimple to have a major international company with such experience as Siemens to join in the development.

She said it is intended to source as many components as possible for the vehicles in Wales and talks are underway to bring the electric motor manufacturers and composite chassis fabricators to Wales and support the venture, to cut down on costs and maintain continuity of supply.



Fiona Spowers with the Riversimple Rasa.



Brian Holliday, MD Siemens Digital Industries GB & Ireland, added, “We are delighted to be working with Riversimple, a UK company, which has designed and built a revolutionary electric car that runs on hydrogen.

We support firms that produce boundary-breaking products in terms of design, manufacturing and performance.

It is particularly satisfying when we get to support a programme with sustainability at its heart that can make a difference to the health of our planet.”

Riversimple has also announced the appointment of Gambit Corporate Finance LLP and an investment round that aims to raise £150 million over the next three years, to fund two

manufacturing plants.



Currently, Riversimple is building a low volume production run of Rasas for a trial with the general public based in Abergavenny in Monmouthshire supported by OZEV as part of the HTP programme and once Coronavirus restrictions are lifted the proving can develop.