

Very Light Rail Centre a Joint Venture in the Black Country between Research, Business & Local Government

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About us

- WMG is one of seven HVM Catapult centres, funded by BIS via Innovate UK
- Focused on Low Carbon Mobility, Experts in lightweighting/materials optimisation, energy storage & management
- Dudley & Sandwell Borough Councils are sponsors for the build & construction of the centre, having secured £4.5m from the Black Country LEP and submitted a request to the European Structural and Investment Funds

What we can offer

- HVM Catapults address the 'valley of death'
- WMG has unique expertise in lightweighting/energy storage & management
- An international role model for universities and business working together

What or who we are seeking

- Industrial partners
- Consortia membership for CR&D
- Interest in a portfolio applying lightweight structures technology and high efficiency propulsion solutions to the very light rail sector

What's your innovation/idea

- Very Light Rail - including knowledge transfer from automotive
- VLR Revolution Project – development of a self-propelled rail bogie demonstrator
- VLR Innovation Centre – dedicated hub for industry and academia

What's the market opportunity you are addressing

- Enabling a modal shift to rail for urban shuttle services and regenerated rural feeder routes
- Reducing costs of light rail projects
- Reducing carbon in rail initiatives
- Eliminating need for electrification