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Ricardo cooperates with Piaggio on development of clean and fuel efficient light commercial vehicle engine family

New twin-cylinder turbo-diesel designed in partnership with Ricardo is the world's first engine of this type to be certified Euro 5 emissions compliant – part of a family of new engines spanning Piaggio light commercial vehicles across international markets

The new Piaggio engine family – designed and developed in cooperation with Ricardo – is intended for application across the Piaggio light commercial vehicle range of products which are highly popular in many European as well as Asian markets. The new diesel engines will enable the Piaggio Group to offer customers in Europe and Asia an even broader choice of modern commercial vehicles delivering excellent performance combined with low fuel consumption and emissions.

Ricardo is a long standing partner to the Italian manufacturer – famous for its strong European leadership in the scooter and motorcycle business and its broad range of light commercial vehicles – including both the supply of engineering software as well as support for product development programmes.

Piaggio and Ricardo have been working together on the new diesel engine family which is capable of achieving the commercial, performance, emissions and fuel economy needs of the very diverse markets in which Piaggio is active. The engine family thus includes at the premium end, a full Euro 5 compliant and diesel particulate filter (DPF) equipped 1.2 litre twin cylinder turbocharged, common rail equipped engine targeted at European customers. This product delivers an impressive 47kW with extremely low fuel consumption and quoted CO₂ emissions in the Piaggio Porter light van of just 127 g/km. Given the application of these vehicles in predominantly inner city locations and for delivery purposes, customers will benefit from the both the class-leading nature of the DPF system and long service intervals made



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possible with the new engine. For more cost-sensitive markets such as India, the same engine family will be offered in a naturally aspirated form compliant with Bharat stage 4 regulations (the Indian Euro 4 equivalent standard) in the Piaggio Ape Truk Plus vehicle range.

Commenting on the collaboration with Ricardo revealed today, Piaggio Commercial Vehicles Powertrain director Maurizio Marcacci said:

“Thanks to its innovative features, this new Piaggio engine family will satisfy a broad and varied range of customers on the most disparate world markets. The degree of flexibility achieved with these engines, in line with the Piaggio Group product strategies for the different markets, demonstrates the very effective manner in which Piaggio and Ricardo engineers have been able to work together to deliver attractive solutions in the form of cleaner and more fuel efficient engines for our customers.”

Ian Penny, Ricardo global director for engine engineering, added:

“The very successful partnership with Piaggio announced today demonstrates the manner in which Ricardo is able to apply and optimize appropriate technologies to deliver class-leading, solutions aimed at meeting the commercial and performance objectives of our customer in the markets they serve. The new two-cylinder diesel is both a world first in offering Euro 5 compliance in an engine of this type, as well as providing a cost-optimized architecture for naturally aspirated products in India.”

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NOTES TO EDITORS:

Ricardo plc: With technical centres and offices in the UK, USA, Germany, the Czech Republic, France, Italy, Russia, China, Japan, India and Korea, Ricardo is a leading independent technology provider and strategic consultant to the world's transportation sector and clean energy industries. The company's engineering expertise ranges from vehicle systems integration, controls, electronics and software development, to the latest driveline and transmission systems and gasoline, diesel, hybrid and fuel cell powertrain technologies, as well as wind energy and tidal power systems. Ricardo is committed to excellence and industry leadership in people, technology and knowledge; approximately 70 per cent of its employees are highly qualified multi-disciplined professional engineers and technicians. A public company, Ricardo plc posted sales of £162.8 million in financial year 2010 and is a constituent of the FTSE techMark 100 index – a group of innovative technology companies listed on the London Stock Exchange. For more information, visit www.ricardo.com.

Piaggio Group: Established in 1884 by Rinaldo Piaggio and based in Pontedera (Pisa, Italy), the Piaggio Group is one of the world's top manufacturers of two-wheel motor vehicles.

The Piaggio Group product range includes scooters, motorcycles and mopeds in the 50cc to 1200cc displacement range for the Piaggio, Vespa, Gilera, Aprilia, Moto Guzzi, Derbi and Scarabeo brands. The Group also manufactures three- and four-wheel light transport vehicles for the Ape, Porter and Quargo ranges.

Group production operations, with more than 7,000 employees, are located in factories in: Pontedera (Pisa), for two-wheel vehicles for the Piaggio, Vespa and Gilera brands, light transport vehicles (LTVs) for the European market, and scooter and motorcycle engines; Scorzè (Venice), for two-wheel vehicles for the Aprilia and Scarabeo brands; Mandello del Lario (Lecco), for Moto Guzzi vehicles and engines; Barcelona (Spain), for the Derbi brand; Baramati (in the Indian state of Maharashtra), for three- and four-wheel LTVs; Vinh Phuc (Vietnam), for Vespa scooters for the local market and the ASEAN area. The Piaggio Group also controls a joint venture in China (in Foshan, in Guangdong province), owned 45% by Piaggio, and therefore not included in the Group's consolidated results.

In 2009, the Piaggio Group sold a total 607,700 vehicles worldwide (scooters, motorbikes and 3-4 wheeled commercial vehicles), of which 410,300 in the 2-wheel business and 197,400 in the commercial vehicle business. Piaggio Group consolidated net sales totalled € 1,486.9 million in 2009 fiscal year. The Group has been listed on the Milan Stock Exchange since 11 July 2006. For more information, visit www.piaggiogroup.com.

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