

**Westport's next-generation natural gas vehicle delivers fuel cost savings
and low emissions in drive from Vancouver to Los Angeles**

For immediate release

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Vancouver, British Columbia--Westport Innovations Inc. (TSE:WPT) announced today that its 2001 Michelin Challenge Bibendum team has driven the world's first natural gas-fueled diesel-cycle passenger car to Los Angeles from Vancouver, demonstrating a 31% cost saving over gasoline on the 2,281-kilometer (1,417-mile) route.

The Westport vehicle is based on the award-winning Ford Focus with the European Ford Endura Turbodiesel™ engine, one of the most popular cars in Europe partly because of its superior performance and fuel efficiency. Working closely with Ford under a cooperative development agreement, Westport engineers and technicians modified the original diesel engine to incorporate Westport's patented direct injection natural gas fuel system.

The Westport prototype was accompanied by a standard North American gasoline-powered Focus on the trip. The approximate value of the natural gas fuel consumed by Westport's prototype was \$96 (US\$62) while the value of the fuel consumed by the gasoline Focus was \$139 (US\$90).

"This idea showed its merit on its first long-distance road trip," said David Demers, Westport's President and Chief Executive Officer. "As Ford and Westport move from prototype demonstrations to market applications, we believe this light-duty vehicle technology will attract both consumers and fleet operators who want to reduce fuel costs while helping the environment."

Alan Welch, Westport's Light Duty Team Leader, added, "This is a significant demonstration of the real-world value of our technology. We believe it could be implemented in production vehicles, allowing them to deliver great fuel economy while meeting emissions standards without particulate traps likely to be required for future low-emissions diesel fuel engines."

Westport has worked with Ford on this light-duty technology development program since 1999. After extensive laboratory testing, Westport outfitted two European factory-built, diesel fuel Ford Focus cars with the technology--one for delivery to Ford and one for testing by Westport. The vehicles use Westport's common rail fuel system, including high-speed, high-pressure fuel injectors that directly introduce natural gas into the combustion chamber. Ignition is controlled by a hot surface in the engine cylinder.

The goal of the Ford-Westport program is to develop a light-duty engine with lower fuel costs and better emissions than equivalent spark-ignited natural gas engines, gasoline engines and diesel fuel engines. Westport has demonstrated that its prototype engine is more energy-efficient than published data for similar light-duty natural gas vehicles that rely on lower compression, spark-ignited engines.

Westport engineers drove the prototype to Los Angeles to compete in the 2001 Michelin Bibendum Challenge, an event for environmentally positive vehicles. After the Bibendum, Westport's engineering team will drive the vehicle a further 3,500 kilometers (2,174 miles) to the Ford Research and Engineering Center, Dearborn, Michigan, for testing by Ford engineers.

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Westport's latest development agreement with Ford, which runs to December 2002, calls for further technology advances as well as early market studies and preliminary business planning. Ford will decide whether to put the technology into production vehicles based on future testing and market analysis.

Westport's strategy is to develop natural gas technology for diesel engines through key strategic alliances. In addition to Ford, Westport has strategic engine alliances with Cummins Inc. of Columbus, Indiana, Isuzu Motors Ltd. of Tokyo, Japan, and MAN Nutzfahrzeuge AG of Munich, Germany.

Note: This news release contains forward-looking statements about Ford and Westport plans based on the current expectations of management. Ford and Westport caution investors that due to risks and uncertainties, actual events may differ materially from current expectations.

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Backgrounder on Westport's Fuel Consumption: Vancouver-Los Angeles

Fuel	Value C\$**	Value US\$	Volume***	Price C\$**	Price US\$
Natural Gas	\$96	\$62	182 gasoline liters equiv 48 gasoline gallons equiv****	\$0.53 per gasoline liter equivalent	\$1.29 per gasoline gallon equivalent ****
Gasoline*	\$139	\$90	200 liters 53 gallons	\$0.70 per liter*	\$1.70 per gallon

*Self-serve 89 Octane (mid-grade)

**at US\$1=C\$1.55

*** 1 U.S. gallon = 3.785 liters

**** 1 U.S. gasoline gallon = 115,400 Btu energy