

KA/19/R012

June 16 2010

**TURBOCHARGER COMPANY ACCELERATES INTO THE FAST LANE**  
*Aeristech raises £500,000 and boosts its board*

A company which has developed a novel fuel efficient and low-cost turbocharger technology has attracted support from one of the Midlands' leading venture capital firms and business angel investors.

Birmingham-based Aeristech has developed a system that enables car manufacturers to downsize engines without reducing performance: cutting emissions and cost.

The company's prototypes have been well-received by the industry and the company is soon to commence testing programmes with off-highway vehicle manufacturer JCB and one of the world's largest automobile manufacturers.

Midven, the West Midlands specialist venture capital company, is investing £125,000 from the firm's Early Advantage Fund out of a total round of £500,000. Minerva, the University of Warwick Science Park's Business Angel Network Investor Group played a significant role in the round coordinated by Nicholas Gill, Finance Director of Aeristech. Joining the board will be Andrew Lester, a Minerva member and former MD of Jaguar UK and Alfa Romeo UK along with Andy Tempest, former FD of Lotus Engineering and CEO of Prodrive who has been a longstanding supporter of the company.

Aeristech Ltd was founded in 2006 as an engineering R&D consultancy firm to develop hybrid turbo technology, a concept developed and created by the company's founder, Bryn Richards. The new technology is already attracting the interest of car and truck manufacturers, who for competitive, environmental and legislative reasons, need to increase the efficiency of their current engines.

Aeristech has revolutionised the technology of turbochargers by solving the previous problem of turbo-lag, the pause between depressing the accelerator and the turbocharger kicking in, thus allowing manufacturers to downsize engines without impacting performance.

Bryn Richards, founder and CEO of Aeristech, said the technology has the potential to solve the two biggest problems facing the automotive industry.

“Fuel prices have risen to a level where they are a major part of the cost of ownership of cars and trucks. In addition, carbon emission reduction targets are driving legislation to reduce emissions. Aeristech’s Hybrid Turbo Technology can solve both these problems by increasing the efficiency of internal combustion engines,” he said.

Duncan Kerr, Investment Director of Midven’s Early Advantage Fund, said that Aeristech had already proved itself as a name of the future by securing high-profile industry grants from Shell Springboard and the Carbon Trust.

“The Midlands has a great history in the automotive industry and Aeristech’s hybrid turbocharger is an excellent example of how the industry can be regenerated through technological innovation continuing the region’s tradition as the UK’s automotive capital. This investment will enable Aeristech to enter into evaluation programmes with global manufacturers leading to commercialization of the technology,” he said.

Tim Powell, Director of Minerva said “It is forecast that by 2014 around 75% of all European light vehicles will be boosted by turbo technology. Aeristech’s ability to virtually eliminate turbo-lag will make them the system of choice for manufacturers. It was no surprise that the company attracted strong investor interest in an oversubscribed round - the region has supported Aeristech over the last 3 years in its R&D stages with grants from Advantage West Midlands, so it’s especially pleasing for Minerva to be part of this next phase in the company’s development”.

**ENDS**

**Editors’ Notes**

**About Midven Limited**

Midven Limited [www.midven.co.uk](http://www.midven.co.uk) is a privately owned company with a successful track record of investing in small and medium-sized enterprises in the Midlands over 15 years. It manages a variety of funds and has invested in a wide range of sectors, including software, biotechnology, healthcare, engineering, manufacturing and distribution.

**About Minerva**

**Minerva** - Business Angel Network and Investor Group formed in 1994 is a wholly owned division of the University of Warwick Science Park Ltd and has a long tradition of assisting technology and early stage ventures to access and

raise funding. For more information contact Tim Powell 02476 323114  
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