

# Case Study

Bee Automobiles Ltd

semta

The Sector Skills Council  
for Science, Engineering and  
Manufacturing Technologies



“Semta has been very helpful in opening doors. We're still at an early stage of this project but we need to start thinking about building those skills sets – which could take years. The UK is not unique in this but it is well placed to compete. We need to act over the next two years or we'll get left behind.”

Stephen Voller  
Company Founder

## Skills investment brings innovation to the automotive sector

Semta has opened doors for an innovative new company dedicated to 'green' technology. Semta's prompt actions and support have helped get Bee Automobiles Ltd on track to achieve its business goals and protect the environment.

Reading-based Bee Automobiles was founded in 2008 by entrepreneur Stephen Voller with a mission to produce a new-generation electric car. The company has embraced the government's priorities of focussing on new technologies and reducing emissions. Using Voller's extensive knowledge of new battery technology it aims to manufacture a vehicle which meets government targets to reduce emissions by 80% by 2050. The electric car promises to be green, not only in its operation but at every stage of

its development. Voller's goal is to achieve similar emission cuts through choice of materials, manufacturing processes, distribution and end-of-life recycling.

Getting the support he needed had proved difficult for Voller until he met with Semta.

### Support for training

Semta responded by helping Voller identify partners who could assist with this project. This resulted in offers of support ranging from premises, design



and training funding. In addition, Semta worked closely with Voller to map out the skills training that would be required.

“Bee Automobiles needs to make its mark in the automotive sector. As we move from the traditional automotive world to this new world of electric vehicles, many of the skills that exist in the UK automotive industry are not applicable. We need to bring in different skill sets – electrical, software composites and chemical engineering – that are not traditionally found in this sector but exist outside it,” Voller explained.

“The UK automotive industry is very rich in talent and we don’t want to throw everything away that’s gone before, so it’s a question of identifying the right skill sets and then retraining people to adapt to this new world,” Voller commented.

As the business grows, Semta is set to advise Bee Automobiles on training provision and funding to develop the specialist skills its employees and partner organisations need to produce and maintain electric cars.

Semta’s UK Operations Director, Lynn Tomkins said:

“We are delighted to support Bee Automobiles and the government’s drive towards green technology. The electric car is an exciting concept which we are keen to see evolve. With such innovative technology, we are convinced that the electric car will help the UK automotive industry thrive, creating new jobs and boosting the economy.”

### Contact us

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