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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **AUSTRALIAN FIRST: PLUG-IN HYBRID VEHICLE FOR GREENEST BUILDING**

**Szencorp and the Institute for Sustainable Futures are developing Australia's first Plug-in Hybrid Electric Vehicle by May 2008**

Leading researchers at the Institute for Sustainable Futures and the faculty of engineering at the University of Technology Sydney are being funded by Szencorp to create Australia's first plug in hybrid electric vehicle (PHEV) to be used at Szencorp's green headquarters in Melbourne. PHEVs are hybrid vehicles with an additional battery that can be charged directly from a wall socket, enabling the vehicle to run purely on electricity for short trips.

A Toyota Prius will have a very safe and lightweight auxiliary lithium iron phosphate battery fitted to it which can then be charged using renewable energy from the grid. This will effectively render the vehicle carbon neutral for commuting as it can run on electricity for over 32 km (the average daily commute in Sydney, the highest average in the country). The benefits for Australia of adopting PHEVs include:

- Reducing Australia's dependence on foreign oil
- Vehicles that can run on clean, renewable electricity as well as being able to power devices such as air-conditioners directly from the batteries
- A revolution in both the motor vehicle and electricity industries

Szencorp plans to use the PHEV to plug into its headquarters at 40 Albert Road, which is still the highest rated green building in Australia. The planned delivery of the vehicle to Melbourne will be in May of 2008.

Szencorp specialises in energy and water efficiency in the built environment. Szencorp is a market leader in retrofitting commercial buildings and is the owner and developer of 40 Albert Road ( see [www.szencorp.net](http://www.szencorp.net) and [www.ourgreenoffice.com](http://www.ourgreenoffice.com) ).

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