

Release date: 18 August 2020

## **NEW CARBON FIBRE HOME DELIVERY FLEET TO DRIVE DOWN ROAD MILES AND EMISSIONS**

British engineering firm Penso has delivered its first Blue Ocean Home Delivery Pods into service, with launch customer Asda taking an initial order for 25 units.

Manufactured from a unique blend of carbon fibre and recycled plastic, the triple-compartment ultra-lightweight pods can transport approximately the same weight of goods in two journeys, that a traditional vehicle carries in three – drastically reducing road miles, fuel costs and cutting CO<sub>2</sub> and NO<sub>x</sub> emissions. It also means more drops can be completed per load, helping to meet increased customer demand.

Simon Gregg, Asda's Vice President of Online Grocery Home Shopping, says: "I'm really excited to launch this fleet of innovative and sustainable grocery home shopping vans which will make a real difference to cutting our carbon footprint.

"As a business, we are constantly looking at ways we can reduce our carbon emissions, not just because we know that sustainability is important to our customers and colleagues, but because all of us have a responsibility, and it's just the right thing to do, making improvements wherever we can."

Daniel Hurcombe, Managing Director of Penso, says: "Retailers and logistics operators are under huge pressure to increase delivery slots, at the same time as reducing their carbon footprint and improving efficiency. What we've done at Penso is create a solution which delivers tangible benefits in all of these areas, using every ounce of our experience in light-weighting projects for the aerospace, rail and automotive sectors."

Key to the near-400kg increase in payload capacity is Penso's composite sandwich panel technology, which features 5,000 recycled plastic bottles in the structural core of every pod. Each closed cell foam sandwich panel is then wrapped with carbon fibre to prevent long-term water ingress – and backed by an unparalleled 10-year structural warranty.

Penso is manufacturing the pods on a brand new flexible automated robot assembly line at its Coventry headquarters. The site is designed to build up to 10,000 dry freight and temperature controlled pods each year, with production to ramp up steadily over the next five years.

The new Asda fleet has been supplied on a 3.5-tonne medium wheelbase, front-wheel-drive, Mercedes-Benz Sprinter chassis. They have initially been deployed in areas where drivers face increased mileage to reach customers in remoter areas, such as parts of the east coast of England.

Penso's pods are compatible with diesel, electric and hybrid models – ensuring the design is future-proofed and can be easily transferred onto next-generation vehicles.

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### **About Penso**

Established in 2005, Penso is a world-leading engineering and manufacturing specialist based in Coventry, providing complete turnkey services to customers across the globe. Its team of more than 200 represents the very best in British design and engineering and the business has heavily invested in developing new and lightweight solutions for the automotive, aerospace, defence and rail sectors. Its full list of capabilities include composites, consulting, concept design and vehicle build, design and engineering, electronics, finite element analysis, interior systems development and supply and niche vehicle build.

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