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Tropical Mobility Awarded JMD 7M DBJ Innovation Grant to Launch Tropical Delivery

Kingston Jamaica, 19 September 2023 // Tropical Mobility, a majority owned subsidiary of Tropical Battery Company, has been awarded a JMD 7M innovation grant to commercialize Tropical Delivery, a zero emissions last mile delivery service app.

The company was selected by the Development Bank of Jamaica (DBJ) for a commercialization grant under its Boosting Innovation, Growth and Entrepreneurship Ecosystems (BIGEE) Programme financed by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), with business advisory support from the Caribbean Climate Innovation Center (CCIC).

The company has retained First Responders Technology to manage the development and roll out of the Tropical Delivery mobile and web app, an e-commerce marketplace that will enable merchants of all kinds to create virtual storefronts to sell products delivered with zero emissions vehicles powered by renewable energy. The first phase of the Tropical Delivery service will be launched by the end of 2023.

Tropical Mobility is investing over JMD 15M, in addition to the JMD 7M grant, to launch the Tropical Delivery service after signing an exclusive distribution agreement with China-based VMOTO SOCO, the world's largest manufacturer of fully electric B2B motorbikes, specifically designed for the last mile delivery segment and sold in over 80 countries globally. The motorbikes have two swappable batteries to minimize downtime and maximize driving range and the use of renewable energy for charging.

Tropical Delivery was conceptualized by the Tropical Mobility management team to reimagine and build on Tropical Battery's existing Mobile Response service, whereby the company delivers automotive batteries to customers in need, whether at their residence, place of business or by the roadside. Tropical Delivery will enable the replacement of Tropical Battery's internal combustion engine motorcycle fleet with battery electric motorbikes in Phase I, before adding larger battery electric passenger and cargo vehicles to its fleet in Phase II. Tropical Delivery is partnering with a wide range of merchants, including brick-and-mortar businesses and e-commerce platforms, as well as existing last mile delivery companies, to offer delivery-as-a-service utilizing battery electric vehicle (BEV) platforms.

"We are incredibly grateful to the DBJ, the IDB and the CCIC for their support in this audacious project," commented Tropical Mobility CEO Oliver Hill. "Tropical Delivery is designed to demonstrate the operational and environmental benefits of utilizing battery electric vehicles in the last mile delivery segment. We are providing a practical solution to the noise pollution that has accompanied the growth of last mile delivery in Jamaica, while reducing the carbon footprint attributable to e-commerce and driving the demand for zero emissions electric vehicles supplied by Tropical Mobility and its partners," Hill added.