SPe-CIAL DELIVERY

In this article CVW catches up with Sykes Pickavant to find out more about the company's new diagnostics strategy that includes the launch of some innovative solutions.

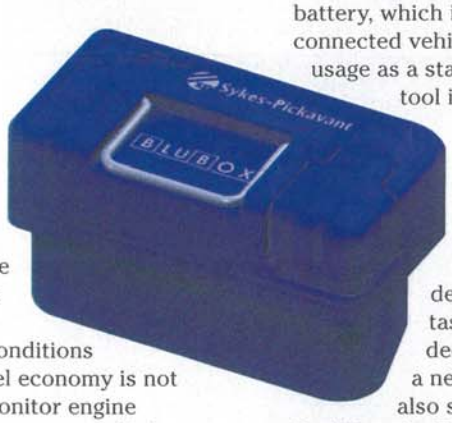
Sykes-Pickavant has been involved in 'hand-held' diagnostics for nearly 20 years, but during that time the market has changed dramatically. Over the last decade, we have seen the rise of electronics being used to control and monitor what might be regarded as basic servicing tasks – oil change, mileage reset, brake pad changes, and increasingly functions related to batteries, lights, suspension, air con and much more.

As more and more such functions are controlled electronically, the manufacturers of diagnostic equipment have steadily added these to their software offerings, to a greater or lesser extent, but this has meant that for workshops there has been little option but to purchase what can sometimes be very expensive diagnostic equipment, simply to carry out routine service work.

The company realised that there was room in the market for a range of 'electronic service' tools – multi-brand tools offering access to the electronic service functions, but without the added costs associated with in-depth diagnostic capability. New strategic thinking has resulted in a programme of 'electronic service' tools aimed at providing the workshop with the capability of accessing these service related functions, in a simple and cost-effective manner.

BluBox

The first product in the new programme was launched in November 2010. BluBox is an advanced EOBD Data Recorder designed to monitor a variety of selectable parameters via the diagnostic socket. It can be used to monitor driving conditions when perhaps, fuel economy is not as expected, to monitor engine management parameters, and it is particularly useful in the tracing and identifying of erratic and inconsistent faults. BluBox is supplied with its own PC software and USB connection lead. When the software has been loaded onto a suitable PC or laptop, the tool can then be configured to meet the needs of the user and of the vehicle being tested.



SPe

Next follows SPe – the new Electronic Service Tool. Electronic service work on today's modern vehicles can be complicated but this new solution is safer and easier. SPe is an advanced hand-held electronic service device for use on all vehicles equipped with an EOBD socket, which have modern electronic service functionality built-in. From simple 'Service Light Reset' and 'Brake Pad Change', to more complex functions such as 'Steering Angle Reset', 'Headlamp Calibration' and 'Replacement Battery Configuration'. The product 'scans' all of the ECUs on the vehicle and provides the technician with a report of all functions requiring service when the vehicle arrives.

The product has its own internal battery, which is re-charged from the connected vehicle, giving up to one hour usage as a stand-alone device. Once the tool is switched on, select the vehicle to work on and it then guides the operator to find the vehicle socket.

Reset tools

For workshops who are dedicated to particular tasks, or have technicians dedicated to individual tasks, a new range of Reset Tools will also soon be available. Traditionally, Reset Tools have been configured by 'vehicle manufacturer' and then by 'function', e.g. 'Service Reset', which means the workshop has to invest in several tools all for the same function. The new P-SP range from SP will all be 'multi-brand' for the function in question and will incorporate a screen for vehicle menu and a task menu selection. This new 'all makes' range will become available progressively through the first half of 2011, featuring 'Service Reset', 'Electronic Park Brake', and 'TPMS' functions initially, and will provide a cost-effective way of providing access to these functions across a wide range of vehicles.

To request a brochure or leaflet offering more information about Sykes-Pickavant's range of 'electronic service tools' circle 110 on the readerlink card