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## Green energy push drives auto firm's growth

**Cath Hart**  
Automotive

WHILE the world's major carmakers line up for bailouts to survive the impact of the economic downturn, one Australian auto-technology company is gearing up its operations in 2009.

The Perth-based Automotive Technology Group, which listed on the Australian Securities Exchange in May last year, has secured a distribution contract with parts and vehicle distributors in China and a trial in the United Arab Emirates for its low emission, high-efficiency Sprintex Supercharger.

ATG director Tony Hamilton said the global push towards reducing carbon emissions created opportunities for innovative ways of cutting pollution while maintaining performance. "We can give vehicle manufacturers the ability to build smaller engines which use less fuel and have lower emissions," Mr Hamilton said. "It has a very green application;

clearly the world is looking for less fuel, but at the same time people still want to be able to have performance in their auto engine, to be able to go anywhere or tow a caravan." The impact of the downturn on car manufacturers would see a rationalisation and an increased focus on producing vehicles that were more environmentally friendly, he said.

"What you're seeing is a situation where manufacturers need to make cars that are more fuel-efficient and have lower emissions," he said.

"You're going to see a rationalisation in the industry and more people using supercharging to obtain those desired outcomes."

Early last month, ATG signed an agreement with UAE's al-Futtaim Motors Company to trial its product, with an exclusive UAE distribution option.

This month, ATG announced a deal with China's Huachuang

Zhenxin Automobile Technology Development Company for the exclusive distribution of the Sprintex in China, Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan. Under the deal, Huachuang will buy about 10,000 ATG supercharger kits over the course of the agreement.

"Those were big wins for a small Perth company," Mr Hamilton told The Australian. "Our aim is to become the No 2 supercharger manufacturer in the world, fairly quickly within the next two years."

The company would also pitch its technology as a method of reducing emissions in industrial applications such as air compressors and fresh air delivery systems, he said.

"We've spent \$21 million on reducing the technical risk. Now it's a commercial matter and we're setting about making it available globally to all the major vehicle manufacturers," Mr Hamilton said.

ATG's share price was unchanged at 16c