

## Lead Fuel Additive Producer Ensures Continued Supply

**July 15, 2010** — As the aviation industry transitions to an unleaded fuel, the manufacturer of a key fuel additive is ensuring that there won't be any gaps between 100LL and its replacement or replacements. Innospec, the makers of tetra ethyl lead (TEL) in 100LL AvGas, says it will continue to produce the crucial additive as the aviation piston world attempts to find an unleaded alternative fuel. The announcement earlier this week is welcome news as the transition to a new, replacement fuel is ongoing.

TEL improves engine performance, prevents knocking, and lubricates engine parts. The higher octane level in current AvGas provides additional power in high-performance engines. One of the key stakeholders in the AvGas debate is higher powered piston engines, including warbirds. While most factory and homebuilt piston singles are certified to operate on lower octane ratings, higher performance singles and twins would have to reduce their performance envelopes if Innospec stopped making the additive.

Innospec, based in the United Kingdom, says it supports the global phase-out of leaded fuel but would continue to make TEL available until the transition to unleaded AvGas is complete. Innospec also says that other countries around the world are still transitioning their auto fleets to unleaded gasoline, so there is still strong demand for the product outside aviation.

*Note from The Clean 100:*

*This, of course, is welcome news. The FAST coalition has been working diligently to assure Innospec understands the problem and is responsive. Kudos to FAST.*

*In the last paragraph, Innospec speaks of the continuing strong demand for TEL. Others, however, have reported that as of 2011 the only volume user of the additive will be general aviation. And, where Innospec was operating on a 24/7 basis this time in 2009, they are currently on a single shift five days per week.*

*On a positive note:*

- *There is 2 years' TEL inventory in the system*
- *Innovac ships using containerized methods which assures multiple shipping sources*
- *The current plant has considerable idled production, and is physically very large. If some event happens to destroy the current production line {e.g., fire}, the idled plant could be quickly brought on line.*