

Fuel Cells - taking a stab at environmental protection

A record-breaking 135 exhibitors at the Group Exhibit Hydrogen + Fuel Cells at HANNOVER MESSE 2007, April 16-20, Hall 13, G26

Munich, Germany. March 23, 2007: Renewable energies such as solar, wind, water and geothermal can be stored in the production of hydrogen. Hydrogen is an energy carrier, a fuel, and a feasible method of transporting energy. The reaction of hydrogen and oxygen within the fuel cell, creating power and heat, has the potential to decrease worldwide CO2 levels. At the Group Exhibit Hydrogen + Fuel Cells in Hannover, Germany, 135 exhibitors from 23 countries will present their newest applications, products and research advances in the field of hydrogen and fuel cells.

Hydro Oil & Energy Hydrogen Technologies from Norway and Hydrogenics Corp. from Canada will display electrolyzers that generate hydrogen using hydro power. Linde AG will communicate their efforts in building a hydrogen infrastructure, as well as their experience with Linde's hydrogen filling station and test center in Munich.

"Stationary fuel cells will certainly be a focal point of this year's exhibition," says Tobias Renz, Managing Director of the Group Exhibit H2/FC. Trade show visitors can discover more about combined heat & power fuel cell units from Viessmann, Vaillant, BAXI Innotech, Hexis and Siemens Power Generation. At present these units are powered by natural gas. A reformer breaks down the natural gas and generates a hydrogen-rich gas with which the fuel cell is fed. Power can therefore be produced in a decentralized system. However the generated heat doesn't go unused. Instead, the heat is utilised for warming water and for heating. Multiple field tests have successfully been completed. Numerous energy providers will provide information about the possibility of feeding biogas into the natural gas pipe network.

Other hot topics will be fuel cell components, portable fuel cells, fuel cells for mobile applications like buses, cars, forklifts and boats, back-up systems, test benches, reformers, hydrogen storage and transport, education as well as the latest results from several leading research institutions.

The number of exhibitors in 2007 reveals a 30% increase in comparison with the last few years. This year's Group Exhibit also boasts of 19 US-exhibitors and 39 first-time exhibitors. The steadily growing participation over the past 13 years confirms that the Group Exhibit H2/FC is Europe's most important hydrogen and fuel cell event.

In addition to the products to be seen at each booth, the Group Exhibit's Forum will open up the floor for company heads and leading researchers to discuss present challenges in the commercialization of this technology. At the Forum, trade show visitors can listen in on compact interviews all week long at no additional charge.

Press Conference: April 16, 10:00am - 10:40am at the Forum, Hall 13, G26

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