



INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIP FOR HYDROGEN AND FUEL CELLS IN THE ECONOMY

IPHE Press Release

IPHE Joins in Celebrating “Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Day” October 8

Brussels, October 8, 2016 – Today is “Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Day,” a time to highlight the deployment of fuel cell and hydrogen (FCH) technologies. Introduced in the United States for the atomic weight of hydrogen – 1.008 – the lightest and most abundant element in the universe, this reflects the date written 10-08 in North America. The International Partnership for Hydrogen and Fuel Cells in the Economy (IPHE), a partnership of eighteen countries and the European Commission, joins in this celebration. There will be hundreds of outreach events, announcements, and press releases expected around the globe.

Sustained global research, development, and demonstrations by industry and government have led to technology maturity and early market deployment in Asia, North America, and Europe. The first generation of fuel cell electric vehicles and buses are deployed world-wide. Over 60,000 commercial fuel cells were shipped worldwide in just one year. There are now over 180,000 combined heat and power units installed. And while we often look to on-road vehicles as a sign of making significant cost reductions and technical gains, there are thousands of warehouse materials handling units, back-up power systems, and portable power devices operating today that use FCH technologies.

FCH technologies offer a way to enable clean energy systems, to enhance energy security, to address local environmental goals, and to contribute to economic growth. Hydrogen and electricity are two complementary and viable energy carriers available now that can help effectively decarbonize our energy systems for stationary and for transportation applications. FCH technologies can use a wide variety of low carbon energy sources, from intermittent renewable electricity generation to biomass to chemical waste streams, store and then provide energy when needed, and in so doing can substantially reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The world has used hydrogen for decades in food products, chemical processes, semiconductor fabrication, and refined oil products. As hydrogen capacity builds and competitive fuel cell systems continue to develop for portable, stationary power and transportation markets, FCH systems can complement and gradually replace unabated fossil-fuelled systems. FCH systems will also facilitate the further increase of renewable power production and thus the overall transition to clean and sustainable transportation and energy systems.

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