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FUEL CELL AND HYDROGEN ENERGY CONNECTION – May 2011 Issue

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Federal Program News

1. LANL Researchers Develop Platinum-Free Catalyst for Hydrogen Fuel Cells

Scientists from Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) have developed a platinum-free catalyst for use in cathodes in polymer-electrolyte hydrogen fuel cells. The catalysts use carbon, iron, and cobalt, instead of
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platinum. Researchers say the new catalyst generated currents comparable to the output of fuel cells using platinum catalysts.
http://www.lanl.gov/news/releases/cheaper-hydrogen-fuel-cells.html

2. PNNL Renames Catalysis Research Effort, Renews Focus

Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL) has renamed its non-industrial catalysis research and development effort, now called the Institute for Integrated Catalysis. Scientists at PNNL have also made changes to better focus on key problems in the following areas: "developing catalysts that can efficiently make fuels from alternate feedstocks such as biomass and carbon dioxide, can store electrical energy in chemical bonds, and can increase fuel efficiency and cut emissions at the same time."
http://www.pnl.gov/news/release.aspx?id=863

3. New Water-Splitting Catalyst Developed at SLAC National Accelerator Lab

Researchers at the U.S. Department of Energy's SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory have developed a new non-platinum catalyst, coupled with a light-absorbing electrode, to generate hydrogen by splitting water into its components. The catalyst is a molybdenum sulfide compound, instead of the more expensive platinum.
http://home.slac.stanford.edu/pressreleases/2011/20110502.htm

4. DOE Announces Hydrogen, Fuel Cell Program Merit Awards

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) presented eleven Merit Review Awards, recognizing outstanding achievements and contributions to DOE's Hydrogen and Fuel Cells Program. Awards were given in several areas, including Production, Delivery, Market Transformation, and Education. The awards were presented at the 2011 DOE Hydrogen and Fuel Cells Program and Vehicle Technologies Program Annual Merit Review and Peer Evaluation Meeting.
http://www.hydrogen.energy.gov/news_20110511.html

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RFP / Solicitation News

5. California Seeks Proposals to Develop Hydrogen Testing Standards

The California Department of Food and Agriculture's Division of Measurement Standards has issued a Request for Proposals for the development of three hydrogen testing standards: gravimetric, pressure/volume/temperature, and master meter. Awards of $125,000 will be given for development of the latter two standards, while an award of $250,000 will be given for the gravimetric standard. The deadline for proposals is May 31, 2011.
http://www.bidsync.com/DPX?by=key&ac=powersearch&posting=1&p=&changeregion=&changeorg=&srchoid_override=&headoid=307818&sort=end&srchid=&clearsearch=&search=hydrogen&title=td&region=%2Fca&srchoid=307818&srchgroup=-1&cat=&cat_1=-1&cat_2=-1&cat_5=-1&pastbids

6. Manportable Fuel Cells Sources Sought Notice Released by Army

The U.S. Department of the Army issued a Sources Sought Notice (SSN) to identify sources capable of providing 300-watt (minimum) manportable fuel cells for use as auxiliary power. The fuel cells "must operate using packaged propane or methanol based fuels." There is no funding associated with this announcement, which seeks only to identify companies capable of replying to a potential production quantity of 750 units over a period of four years, with a maximum per unit cost of $5,000. The deadline for response to the SSN is June 10, 2011.
https://www.fbo.gov/index?s=opportunity&mode=form&tab=core&id=8f24403e9c93ddb8e2db39874b014fb0
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7. Hydrogen, Fuel Cell Topics Included in DOD 2011.2 SBIR Solicitation

Hydrogen and fuel cell projects are among the topics of interest in the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) 2011.2 Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) solicitation. Topics include "Medium-Pressure Hydrogen Generator for Portable Electrical Power System for Aeromedical Evacuation (PEPSAE)" and "Purification of Biogas for Fuel Cells." Phase I awards under this solicitation will be a maximum of $150,000. Proposals will be accepted until June 29, 2011.
http://www.acq.osd.mil/osbp/sbir/solicitations/sbir112/index.htm

8. Pacific Power Blue Sky Program Supports Renewable Energy Projects

Pacific Power's Blue Sky Program is accepting applications for funding to support non-residential, community-based renewable energy projects in Oregon, Washington, and California. Eligible technologies include biomass based on digester methane gas from landfills, sewage treatment plants, or animal waste. Through the program, Pacific Power will provide "enough funding to selected projects such that they will be economically feasible." The deadline for applications is July 1, 2011.
http://www.pacificpower.net/env/bsre/cpf.html

9. Rocky Mountain Power Blue Sky Program Supports Renewable Energy

Rocky Mountain Power's Blue Sky Program is accepting applications for funding to support non-residential, community-based renewable energy projects in Utah, Wyoming, and Idaho. Eligible technologies include biomass based on digester methane gas from landfills, sewage treatment plants, or animal waste. Funding will support new projects, or additions to existing renewable energy projects. The deadline for applications is July 1, 2011.
http://www.rockymountainpower.net/env/bsre/bscpf.html

10. AQMD RFP for Five Megawatts of Renewable DG & Energy Storage

The South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) issued a Request for Proposals (RFP), #P2011-21, for five megawatts or more of "in-basin renewable distributed electricity generation and storage to support electric transportation technologies" within the district. Biogas-to-electricity projects utilizing fuel cells are eligible as potential generation technologies. AQMD will provide $30 million or more in funding under this RFP. The deadline for proposals is July 1, 2011.
http://www.aqmd.gov/rfp/

11. DOE Launches "America's Next Top Energy Innovator" Challenge

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) has launched the "America's Next Top Energy Innovator" challenge, which offers start-up companies the ability to license, at a reduced rate of $1000, technologies developed by the national laboratories. As part of the program, DOE is reducing both the cost and paperwork requirements for start-up companies to license one of the more than 15,000 unlicensed patents and patent applications currently held by the national laboratories. The deadline for submitting an application is December 15, 2011.
http://apps1.eere.energy.gov/news/progress_alerts.cfm/pa_id=508

12. SBA Launches Entrepreneurial Mentor Corps for Clean Tech Startups

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) has launched an Entrepreneurial Mentor Corps Clean Energy Pilot Program that will provide funding to four "private business accelerators" that will match 100 startup companies with experienced business and entrepreneurial mentors. SBA is partnered with the U.S. Department of Energy and its Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy (ARPA-E) on the program. New "mentee small businesses" are now being accepted into the program. Because the program is limited to 100 mentee businesses, early application is encouraged.
http://www.sba.gov/startupamerica

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About the *Fuel Cell and Hydrogen Energy Connection*

Administration

Press releases and story ideas may be forwarded to Bernadette Geyer, editor, for consideration at fuelcellconnection @ yahoo.com

Visit the Fuel Cell RFPs Web site (http://www.fuelcellrfps.com) for a listing of open solicitations and funding opportunities.

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