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## **FUEL CELL CONNECTION – September 2004 Issue**

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#### **News on U.S. Government Fuel Cell Programs**

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##### *1. Fuel Cells a Priority for FY2006 Federal Budget*

The White House Office of Science and Technology Policy and the Office of Management and Budget have authored a memo for heads of executive departments and agencies, outlining the Administration's research priorities for FY2006. "Climate, Water and Hydrogen Research" is listed as one of the research priorities, stressing that agencies "should continue research efforts in support of the President's Hydrogen Fuel Initiative." Specifically, the memo points to research addressing "novel materials for fuel cells and hydrogen storage, durable and inexpensive catalysts, and hydrogen production from renewable energy, nuclear energy, biological and electrochemical processes, and fossil fuels with carbon sequestration."

<http://www.ostp.gov/html/m04-23.pdf>

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##### *2. DOE, USDA Team on Hydrogen from Peanut Shells*

Scientists at the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Research Service are teaming up with researchers at the Department of Energy to explore the use of peanut shells to produce hydrogen and charcoal fertilizer.

<http://www.ars.usda.gov/is/pr/2004/040825.htm>

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##### *3. DOE and OPIC to Promote Efficiency, Renewable Technologies*

DOE and the Overseas Private Investment Corporation signed an agreement to partner in the promotion of investment in cleaner, more efficient energy technologies in emerging markets around the world. The new initiative will focus on innovative financing and creative partnerships, advancing the already existing U.S. Clean Energy Initiative and the Clean Energy Technology Export Initiative.

[http://www.energy.gov/engine/content.do?PUBLIC\\_ID=16609&BT\\_CODE=PR\\_PRESSRELEASES&TT\\_CODE=PRESSRELEASE](http://www.energy.gov/engine/content.do?PUBLIC_ID=16609&BT_CODE=PR_PRESSRELEASES&TT_CODE=PRESSRELEASE)

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**4. DOE, NHA Announce 2005 H2U Design Contest**

The DOE is sponsoring the 2005 H2U Design Contest for college students and professors. This year's theme is Hydrogen Power Parks. Teams of students, professors, industry professionals and government representatives will be expected to design power parks that address the need for backup power, grid load reduction, distributed power generation and/or hydrogen dispensing.

Team registrations are due October 15, 2004.

<http://www.H2Ucontest.org>

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**5. DOD Issues Green Procurement Policy**

The U.S. Department of Defense has issued a "green procurement" policy, that will set a goal of 100 percent compliance with federal laws and executive orders requiring purchase of environmentally friendly products and services.

<http://www.defenselink.mil/releases/2004/nr20040901-1208.html>

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**6. NREL-Sponsored Opinion Study Asks What the Best Future Fuel for Vehicles Will Be**

In a random survey sponsored by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, one thousand people were asked which of three potential fuels, including hydrogen, would be the best/worst fuel for use in personal vehicles, when gasoline is no longer available. Forty percent of men, but only 17 percent of women, chose hydrogen over electricity or ethanol. Age, income and education level also influenced a respondent's answer.

[http://www.eere.energy.gov/vehiclesandfuels/facts/2004/fcvt\\_fotw339.shtml](http://www.eere.energy.gov/vehiclesandfuels/facts/2004/fcvt_fotw339.shtml)

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**New Government Publications Posted**  
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**7. National Research Council Says Army Should Investigate Fuel Cells for Soldiers**

The National Academies' National Research Council has published a report encouraging the U.S. Army to consider fuel cells and other alternative power sources for the soldiers of the future. The Army's current "Land Warrior" program is developing equipment for the future soldier, including high-tech electronics and the "exoskeleton," which will require "new power sources to operate efficiently." Read the document for free on the National Academies Press website.

[http://books.nap.edu/catalog/11065.html?onpi\\_newsdoc09102004](http://books.nap.edu/catalog/11065.html?onpi_newsdoc09102004)

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**8. International Energy Agency Publishes 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Report on Hydrogen Research**

The International Energy Agency has published "In Pursuit of the Future: 25 years of IEA Research towards the realization of Hydrogen Energy Systems." The free report looks back over the 25 years since the establishment of the Hydrogen Implementing Agreement in 1977 and provides a review of research and development efforts on hydrogen production, storage, conversion processes, demonstration systems, economics and markets, and safety.

[http://www.ieahia.org/pdfs/IEA\\_AnniversaryReport\\_HIA.pdf](http://www.ieahia.org/pdfs/IEA_AnniversaryReport_HIA.pdf)

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**9. Army Publishes Report on Canola Oil Fuel Cell Demonstration**

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Engineer Research and Development Center has published Volume 1 of a report on its Canola Oil Fuel Cell Demonstration, "Literature Review of Current Reformer Technologies." The report is the initial step of the project, which will evaluate the technical and operational issues associated with the conversion of harvested biomass into a gas stream to serve as a fuel source for fuel cell applications. The project will demonstrate a fuel cell in Yellowstone National Park using canola oil as a feedstock.

[http://www.dodfuelcell.com/Holcomb\\_Canolavol\\_I.pdf](http://www.dodfuelcell.com/Holcomb_Canolavol_I.pdf)

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*10. DOE Office of Fossil Energy Publishes Annual Fuel Cell Program Report*

The DOE's Office of Fossil Energy has published its 2004 Fuel Cell Program Annual Report, which compiles abstracts from the projects funded out of the Distributed Generation program. Projects covered include all Solid-State Energy Conversion Alliance (SECA) projects.

<http://www.netl.doe.gov/coal/Distributed%20Generation/publications/FY04%20Fuel%20Cell%20Program%20Annual%20Report.pdf>

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*11. NREL Publishes Fact Sheet on Fuel Cell Hybrid Bus Project*

The National Renewable Energy Laboratory has published a fact sheet on its project to evaluate a fuel cell hybrid bus at Hawaii's Hickam Air Force Base.

[http://www.eere.energy.gov/hydrogenandfuelcells/tech\\_validation/pdfs/36412.pdf](http://www.eere.energy.gov/hydrogenandfuelcells/tech_validation/pdfs/36412.pdf)

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**RFP/Solicitation News**  
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*12. Army Corps of Engineers Issues BAA for PEM Fuel Cell Demonstration Project*

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has issued a Broad Agency Announcement for its PEM Fuel Cell Demonstration Project. The project specifically focuses on the demonstration of domestically produced residential PEM fuel cells in military facilities. Individual projects must be between the sizes of 1 kW and 20 kW. Phase I pre-proposals are due November 1, 2004. Successful offerors will be encouraged to submit a phase II, full proposal.

<http://www.eps.gov/spg/USA/COE/DACA38/W9132T-04-R-BAA1/listing.html>

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*13. FreedomCAR Solicitation Includes Idle Reduction, Hydrogen Combustion Technologies*

The latest solicitation for the FreedomCAR and Vehicle Technologies Program includes Areas of Interest in "Integration of On-Board Idle Reduction Technology in Heavy Trucks as Original Manufacturer Factory Equipment Option" and "Advanced Vehicle Testing and Evaluation." The latter Area of Interest includes evaluation of internal combustion engines burning advanced fuels such as hydrogen and hydrogen/CNG blended fuels. Deadline for applications under this solicitation is November 10, 2004.

<http://www.fedgrants.gov/Applicants/DOE/PAM/HQ/DE-PS26-05NT42296-00/Grant.html>

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*14. NSF SBIR/STTR Includes Fuel Cell Component Manufacturing Projects*

The National Science Foundation's SBIR/STTR Solicitation for the Division of Design, Manufacture, and Industrial Innovation includes subtopics on Unit Process Level Technologies, which will fund projects that create or improve manufacturing processes, including projects aimed at membranes and adsorbents, new catalyst applications and/or catalyst efficiencies, and advancing powder-based materials such as powder metals and powder ceramics. Deadline for Phase I proposals is December 8, 2004. <http://www.eng.nsf.gov/sbir/>

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*15. EU 6<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme Solicits Proposals on Hydrogen, Fuel Cells*

The European Union's 6<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme has issued a call for proposals in the area of component development and systems integration of hydrogen and fuel cells for transport and other applications. The program budget is 35 million Euros. Deadline for responses to this solicitation is December 8, 2004.

[http://fp6.cordis.lu/fp6/call\\_details.cfm?CALL\\_ID=143](http://fp6.cordis.lu/fp6/call_details.cfm?CALL_ID=143)

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**Contract / Funding Awards**  
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*16. EISG Award Given to Fuel Cell Project*

The California Energy Commission has announced awards under its Energy Innovations Small Grant program, part of the Public Interest Energy Research program. Laurent G. Pilon of the University of California, Los Angeles, was awarded a grant for research to develop a cheap and reliable source of hydrogen to power fuel cells.

[http://www.energy.ca.gov/releases/2004\\_releases/2004-09-14\\_grants.html](http://www.energy.ca.gov/releases/2004_releases/2004-09-14_grants.html)

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*17. Fuel Cell Developer Receives Seed Funding*

Fideris has been awarded \$250,000 in seed funding for fuel cell development through the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative and Renewable Energy Trust.

<http://www.mtpc.org/seed/index.htm>

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*18. Xcel Renewable Development Fund Selects Hydrogen Production Project*

The Xcel Renewable Development Fund has awarded a total of \$22 million for renewable energy projects, including more than \$1.7 million for two hydrogen production projects, led by the Gas Technology Institute and Energy Conversion Devices.

[http://www.xcelenergy.com/XLWEB/CDA/0,3080,1-1-1\\_15531\\_8634-14725-5\\_406\\_651-0,00.html](http://www.xcelenergy.com/XLWEB/CDA/0,3080,1-1-1_15531_8634-14725-5_406_651-0,00.html)

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*19. General Dynamics Receives Contract on Fuel Cell Powered Tablet Computers*

General Dynamics C4 Systems has been awarded a contract by the U.S. Air Force to develop and deliver 10 prototype tablet computers powered by direct liquid fuel cells for evaluation as a potential replacement for current ground air traffic control computers. Medis Technologies received the order from General Dynamics to supply the fuel cells for the project.

[http://www.generaldynamics.com/news/press\\_releases/2004/NewsReleaseMonday,%20August%2023,%202004-2.htm](http://www.generaldynamics.com/news/press_releases/2004/NewsReleaseMonday,%20August%2023,%202004-2.htm)

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*20. FuelCell Energy Finalizes Phase I Award for SECA Program*

FuelCell Energy has finalized a three-year Phase I award with the DOE Solid-State Energy Conversion Alliance. The FuelCell Energy team on the project includes Versa Power Systems, Gas Technology Institute, University of Utah, and Dana Corporation.

[http://investor.internationalpaper.com/ireye/ir\\_site.zhtml?ticker=IP&script=410&item\\_id=615531&ayout=23](http://investor.internationalpaper.com/ireye/ir_site.zhtml?ticker=IP&script=410&item_id=615531&ayout=23)

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*21. Army Awards SBIR Phase II Contract to Distributed Energy Systems*

The U.S. Army Missile Defense Agency has awarded a phase II contract to Distributed Energy Systems to continue development of lightweight regenerative fuel cell technology for high altitude airships.

[http://www.distributed-energy.com/press/corporate.html?news\\_id=16969&year=2004&month=09](http://www.distributed-energy.com/press/corporate.html?news_id=16969&year=2004&month=09)

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*22. Modine Receives Fuel Cell Mine Loader Project Contract from DOE*

Modine Manufacturing Company has received a contract from Vehicle Projects to supply thermal management hardware for a DOE fuel cell mine loader project, conceived by the Fuelcell Propulsion Institute.

[http://www.modine.com/english/index2.php?pagecontent=news/display.php&expand\\_index=9&activeSubLink=1&News\\_id=175](http://www.modine.com/english/index2.php?pagecontent=news/display.php&expand_index=9&activeSubLink=1&News_id=175)

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*23. Correction to August 2004 Issue*

In the August 2004 issue of the Fuel Cell Connection, we erroneously reported that Fideris received funding from NASA for a fuel cell, electrolyzer project. The \$1.33 million contract was actually awarded to Lynntech, Inc.

<http://prod.nais.nasa.gov/cgi-bin/eps/synopsis.cgi?acqid=111955&type=award>

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**Legislation / Regulations**  
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*24. New York Adopts Renewable Portfolio Standard*

The New York Public Service Commission approved a Renewable Portfolio Standard that requires at least 25% of the electricity sold to consumers be generated from renewable resources, including fuel cells sited on customer properties.

[http://www.eere.energy.gov/state\\_energy\\_program/news\\_detail.cfm/news\\_id=8186](http://www.eere.energy.gov/state_energy_program/news_detail.cfm/news_id=8186)

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*25. Hawaii Expands Net Metering, Renewable Portfolio Standards*

Hawaii has expanded its renewable portfolio standard (RPS) to 20 percent by 2020. Hydrogen from renewable sources, and fuel cells using renewably-derived hydrogen are eligible technologies under the RPS. Hawaii also raised the net metering limit for renewable energy systems from 10 kW to 50 kW.

[http://www.eere.energy.gov/state\\_energy\\_program/update/bulletin.cfm#HI](http://www.eere.energy.gov/state_energy_program/update/bulletin.cfm#HI)

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*26. Massachusetts Exempts Fuel Cells from Standby Charges in NStar Territory*

The Massachusetts Department of Telecommunications and Energy issued an order exempting through August 1, 2008, certain types of DG systems – including fuel cells, DG systems 250 kW and under in size, DG systems between 250 and 1000 kW that normally satisfy less than 30% of a customer's load, and most renewable energy systems – from standby charges in NStar's customer territory.

<http://www.irecusa.org/connect/enewsletter.html>

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*27. New Jersey Amends Net Metering, Interconnection Standards*

The New Jersey Board of Public Utilities approved amendments to the rules for net metering and interconnection standards to include all Class I Renewable Energy Systems, including fuel cells using renewable fuels, and increasing the allowable generator size to 2 MWs.

<http://www.bpu.state.nj.us/home/news.shtml?60-04>

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**State Activities**  
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*28. CEC Posts DG Cost-Benefit Analysis Report*

The California Energy Commission has posted documents to assist parties involved in the California Public Utilities Commission distributed generation rulemaking. One of the available

documents is the "CEC DG Working Group: DG Definition and Cost-Benefit Analysis – Policy Inventory." [http://www.energy.ca.gov/distgen\\_oii/documents/index.html](http://www.energy.ca.gov/distgen_oii/documents/index.html)

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**29. Ohio Fuel Cell Roadmap Published by ODOD**

The Ohio Department of Development released the "Ohio Fuel Cell Roadmap," a five-year strategic guide that includes programs and activities the State must focus on to create an environment that supports the research, development and early commercialization of fuel cells. Strategies listed to accomplish the State's goals include "Support Current Fuel Cell Companies," "Demonstrate Innovative Technologies," and "Support Early Market Adoption." <http://www.thirdfrontier.com/documents/09-01-04FuelCellMap.pdf>

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**30. Pennsylvania DEP Secretary to Speak at Hydrogen Day**

Pennsylvania's Department of Environmental Protection Secretary, Kathleen McGinty, will be the luncheon keynote speaker at the upcoming "Hydrogen Day at Penn State" on Monday, October 25, 2004, at the University Park campus.

<http://www.dep.state.pa.us/newsletter/default.asp?NewsletterArticleID=9194>

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**Industry Headlines**  
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**31. UPS Expands Fuel Cell Vehicle Testing**

The United Parcel Service (UPS) announced the deployment of three large package delivery vehicles using hydrogen fuel cells for power. The first fuel cell Dodge Sprinter is being deployed in Los Angeles, while the remaining two will be deployed in Sacramento, California, and Ann Arbor, Michigan.

[http://pressroom.ups.com/ups.com/corp/press\\_releases/print\\_friendly/0.1938.4454.00.html](http://pressroom.ups.com/ups.com/corp/press_releases/print_friendly/0.1938.4454.00.html)

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**32. Volkswagen Selects IdaTech Fuel Processor for APUs**

Volkswagen has selected IdaTech to design and manufacture an integrated fuel processor system operating on diesel fuel to be used in an auxiliary power unit (APU) application.

<http://www.idatech.com/media/news.html?article=64>

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**33. Ford Unveils First Focus of Fuel Cell Vehicle Fleet**

Ford has produced the first of a fleet of Focus Fuel Cell Vehicles (FCVs) it is developing under the U.S. Department of Energy's "Controlled Hydrogen Fleet and Infrastructure Demonstration and Validation Project." The Focus FCVs will be deployed in Florida, Michigan, California, Germany and Canada. [http://media.ford.com/article\\_display.cfm?article\\_id=19297](http://media.ford.com/article_display.cfm?article_id=19297)

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**University Activities**  
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**34. USC Gets Funding for Two Endowed Chairs for Fuel Cell Research**

The Review Board for the Research Centers of Economic Excellence earmarked \$2.5 million for two endowed chairs for fuel cell research at the University of South Carolina, which houses the National Science Foundation Industry/University Cooperative Research Center for Fuel Cells.

<http://uscnews.sc.edu/rsrc212.html>



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35. *Kettering Receives NextEnergy Grant for Fuel Cell Lab, Course Equipment*

Kettering University received a \$44,000 extension grant from NextEnergy, which will support equipment needed for the Fuel Cell Electrochemistry laboratory and course, as well as a small vehicle chassis dynamometer for the University's Hybrid Electric Vehicles course.

<http://fuelcells.kettering.edu/pdf-newsletters/2004-09-Sep-Newsletter.pdf>

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36. *University Fuel Cell Roundup*

(summaries contributed by Kathy Haq, Dir. of Outreach and Communications, National Fuel Cell Research Center, UC Irvine, [khaq@nfcrc.uci.edu](mailto:khaq@nfcrc.uci.edu))

Researchers at the University of Houston's Texas Center for Superconductivity and Advanced Materials are developing a solid oxide fuel cell, ideally no bigger than a sugar cube, to power portable devices at a reduced cost with increased durability. (2-Aug-2004, *United Press International*)

Fuel Cell Technologies Ltd. plans to deliver four 5-kW solid oxide fuel cells to the Hydrogen Village at the University of Toronto at Mississauga campus in July 2005, marking the first installation of fuel cells in a Canadian university residential compound. The SOFCs will provide electricity and heat for domestic hot water and area heating for townhouse style student residences at UTM through a "mini-grid" network. The total value of the project including industry contributions is \$1.87 million. (4-Aug-2004, *Canada News Wire*)

Researchers at Oregon State University in Newport are harnessing decomposition activity from plankton taken from the upper water column to create fuel cells that could provide low levels of electrical power for many months. (Aug-2004, *Fuel Cell Technology News*)

The National Science Foundation has awarded a Virginia Tech research group \$600,000 to continue commercial development of a new proton exchange membrane fuel cell technology that uses polymers in place of more expensive materials such as platinum. (12-Aug-2004, *The Roanoke Times*)

Pacific Fuel Cell Corp. opened a laboratory at the University of California, Riverside's University Research Park and plans to hire up to six scientists. UC Riverside will work as a nonprofit partner with Pacific Fuel Cell to develop hydrogen fuel cells. (16-Aug-2004, *The Business Press*, California)

Engineers at the University of Leeds' Energy Resources Research Institute have discovered a method for producing hydrogen from sunflower oil. (25-Aug-2004, *Yorkshire Evening Post*)

Researchers from the University of Wisconsin have figured out how to use carbon monoxide as an additional source of energy in a hydrogen fuel cell system. The new chemical method, reported in *Science*, works at room temperature. (5-Sept-2004, *The Commercial Appeal* in Memphis, Tenn.) <http://www.news.wisc.edu/releases/10072.html>

The University of St. Andrews has won backing from an undisclosed government source to spin out a fuel cell company to be called St. Andrews Fuel Cells to exploit developments in its chemistry department. The new company will develop transportable power in the 500W to 5kW range for leisure and defense. (15-Sept-2004, *Electronics Weekly*)

The Power Partnership for Ohio at Case Western Reserve University has received \$18 million of the \$32 million awarded by the state's Third Frontier Action Fund the last two years for fuel cell development. (20-Sept-2004, *Crain's Cleveland Business*)



Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute has established a Center for Fuel Cell and Hydrogen Research, to be led Glenn Eisman, who until May was chief technology officer for Plug Power Inc. The Center, part of RPI's School of Engineering, will focus on basic research to help get hydrogen and fuel cell technologies on the market. It will work with the university's recently created Future Energy Systems Center for Advanced Technology to disseminate knowledge to businesses. (23-Sept-2004, *The Times Union* in Albany, N.Y.)

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**Administration**  
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Press releases and story ideas may be forwarded to Bernadette Geyer, editor, for consideration at [bernie@usfcc.com](mailto:bernie@usfcc.com).

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**About *Fuel Cell Connection***  
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**The Sponsors**

*U.S. Fuel Cell Council* -- The U.S. Fuel Cell Council is the business association for anyone seeking to foster the commercialization of fuel cells in the United States. Our membership includes producers of all types of fuel cells, as well as major suppliers and customers. The Council is member driven, with eight active Working Groups focusing on: Codes & Standards; Transportation; Power Generation; Portable Power; Stack Materials and Components; Sustainability; Government Affairs; and Education & Marketing. The Council provides its members with an opportunity to develop policies and directions for the fuel cell industry, and also gives every member the chance to benefit from one-on-one interaction with colleagues and opinion leaders important to the industry. Members also have access to exclusive data, studies, reports and analyses prepared by the Council, and access to the "Members Only" section of its web site.

[\(http://www.usfcc.com/\)](http://www.usfcc.com/)

*National Fuel Cell Research Center* -- The mission of the NFCRC is to promote and support the genesis of a fuel cell industry by providing technological leadership within a vigorous program of research, development and demonstration. By serving as a locus for academic talent of the highest caliber and a non-profit site for the objective evaluation and improvement of industrial products, NFCRC's goal is to become a focal point for advancing fuel cell technology. By supporting industrial research and development, creating partnerships with State and Federal agencies, including the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and California Energy Commission (CEC), and overcoming key technical obstacles to fuel cell utilization, the NFCRC can become an invaluable technological incubator for the fuel cell industry.

[\(http://www.nfcrc.uci.edu/\)](http://www.nfcrc.uci.edu/)

*National Energy Technology Laboratory* -- The National Energy Technology Laboratory is federally owned and operated. Its mission is "*We Solve National Energy and Environmental Problems.*" NETL performs, procures, and partners in technical research, development, and demonstration to advance technology into the commercial marketplace, thereby benefiting the environment, contributing to U.S. employment, and advancing the position of U.S. industries in the global market.

<http://www.netl.doe.gov>

