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FUEL CELL CONNECTION – March 2003 Issue

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News on U.S. Government Fuel Cell Programs

1. DOE Submits Fuel Cell Report to Congress

The U.S. Department of Energy has submitted a report on the status of fuel cells in response to a request by Congress. The report covers the technical and economic barriers to the use of fuel cells in transportation, portable power, stationary and distributed power generation applications.

http://www.eere.energy.gov/hydrogenandfuelcells/pdfs/fc_report_congress_feb2003.pdf

2. US-EC Agreement on Fuel Cell Annex

DOE Secretary Spencer Abraham and European Commission President Romano Prodi have agreed to the signing and implementation of a Fuel Cell Annex to the U.S.-EU Non-Nuclear Energy Cooperation Agreement. The Annex will help the DOE and EC unify their approaches to hydrogen research and highlight the importance of bilateral cooperation in the development of hydrogen as an energy source. Secretary Abraham also spoke to EC members to highlight the President's FreedomCAR and Hydrogen Fuel Initiative, the National Hydrogen Energy Roadmap, and the DOE's Carbon Sequestration Leadership Forum.

http://www.energy.gov/HQPress/releases03/marpr/pr03047_v.htm

http://www.energy.gov/HQPress/releases03/marpr/pr03046_v.htm

3. Billion-Dollar FutureGen Project to Yield Hydrogen from Coal

The United States will lead a \$1 billion, public-private effort to construct FutureGen – the world's first fossil fuel, pollution-free power plant, which will serve as a "living prototype" of new carbon sequestration technologies while producing both electricity and hydrogen. The hydrogen would be extracted for multiple uses, including as fuel for a fuel cell.

http://www.energy.gov/HQPress/releases03/febpr/pr03041_v.htm

4. DOD Unveils Unmanned Aerial Vehicles Roadmap, Plans for Fuel Cell Use

The U.S. Department of Defense has published a roadmap for its Defense-wide vision for Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) and related technologies. The roadmap identifies DOD's plans to utilize fuel cells for propulsion in UAVs.

http://www.defenselink.mil/news/Mar2003/p03172003_p024-03.html

5. Fuel Cell Arrives for Installation at Cape Cod Coast Guard Air Station

FuelCell Energy has delivered and begun installation of a DFC300 fuel cell power plant at the U.S. Coast Guard Air Station Cape Cod. Operation is expected to commence this year.

<http://www.uscg.mil/systems/gse/energy/FuelCell/Fuel-Cell-Consolidate-Status-Report-2003.pdf>

6. MARAD Announces New Technology R,D&D Initiative

The U.S. Department of Transportation's Maritime Administration (MARAD) has announced a new research focus and unveiled a new web site. One of the "Major R&D Thrust Areas" identified are Clean Technologies, including fuel cells, hybrid vessels and electric operating systems.

<http://www.marad.dot.gov/Headlines/announcements/2003/marad0403.htm>

7. SECA Posts Status Reports, Conference Proceedings

The Solid-State Energy Conversion Alliance has posted on its web site two new monthly reports and proceedings from the Core Technology Program Review Meeting held June 18-19, 2002.

<http://www.seca.doe.gov/whatsnew.html>

8. DOD National SBIR Spring Conference Scheduled for Potential Applicants

Information on how to successfully apply for and manage DOD SBIR and STTR awards for small business R&D projects will be provided at the National SBIR Spring Conference, scheduled for April 22-24, 2003, in Arlington, VA.

<http://www.acq.osd.mil/sadbu/sbir/conferences/index.htm>

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**RFP/Solicitation News**  
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9. Northern California Power Agency RFP Seeks Renewable Power Projects

The Northern California Power Agency issued a Request for Proposals seeking renewable electric power supply resources, including projects utilizing landfill gas. Based upon the types of proposals received, NCPA could accept a total installed capacity of 30 MW to 85 MW in 2005 and beyond. http://www.eere.energy.gov/greenpower/0303_megreen_pr.html

10. Fuel Cell Category Added to State Energy Program Special Topics Solicitation

"Fuel Cell Demonstration and Coordinated Public Education Activities" has been added as a sub-solicitation topic for the DOE 2003 State Energy Program Special Projects Solicitation.

Approximately \$300,000 is available for an estimated 1-3 projects under this topic. Funding is available to support the purchase of a PEMFC to be used at a college or university, as well as to support public education activities to showcase the technology to the community. The deadline for proposals is May 9, 2003.

<http://www.pr.doe.gov/iips/busopor.nsf/8373d2fc6d83b66685256452007963f5/ea16eb919ea09b6885256cc5007bb24e?OpenDocument>

11. DARPA Seeks Entrants for Grand Challenge Race to Vegas

The Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) will conduct a race of autonomous ground vehicles from Los Angeles to Las Vegas in 2004. A cash prize of \$1 million will be awarded to the team that fields the first vehicle to complete the designated route within a specified time limit. The purpose of the race is to encourage the accelerated development of autonomous vehicle technologies that could be applied to military requirements. The application period opens on April 1, 2003 and closes October 13, 2003.

<http://www.darpa.mil/grandchallenge/index.htm>

12. DARPA Defense Sciences Office BAA

The Defense Sciences Office of DARPA has issued its Broad Agency Announcement, which includes the sub-topic "Materials and concepts for power generation and energy storage at all scales." Deadline for proposals is November 7, 2003.

<http://www.darpa.mil/baa/baa03-02.htm>

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## Contract / Funding Awards

### 13. University Fuel Cell Project Selected for Defense Funding

Through the DOD Multidisciplinary University Research Initiative program, Case Western Reserve University has been selected to receive funding for a project entitled "Fundamental Theoretical/Experimental Molecular Underpinning Fuel Cell Systems."

[http://www.defenselink.mil/news/Mar2003/b03122003\\_bt113-03.html](http://www.defenselink.mil/news/Mar2003/b03122003_bt113-03.html)

### 14. Contract to Install Fuel Cell in Ohio Goes to FuelCell Energy, Caterpillar

FuelCell Energy and Caterpillar have received a contract to install an advanced utility-scale fuel cell power plant designed to feed power from a substation into a local electric distribution system. Installation of the 250-kW Direct FuelCell® power plant is scheduled for late-2003. The project award is the first under the state of Ohio's new \$103 million Fuel Cell Initiative.

[http://www.connectohio.com/3rdfrontier/tech\\_awards.asp](http://www.connectohio.com/3rdfrontier/tech_awards.asp)

### 15. Federal Funds Earmarked for Hydrogen, Fuel Cell Development

NextEnergy, Michigan's alternative energy research, development and education program, received a \$2 million earmark in the FY2003 Energy and Water appropriations for its work on hydrogen and fuel cells.

<http://www.nextenergy.org/030303NextEnergy.htm>

## Legislation / Regulations

### 16. DOE Says AFV Mandates Not Necessary – Seeks Public Comments

DOE issued a Notice of Public Rulemaking announcing that private fleet and local government fleet mandates are not necessary and therefore should not be imposed under EPCA. There is a 90-day period for interested parties to submit written comments on this determination.

[http://www.ott.doe.gov/whats\\_new.shtml](http://www.ott.doe.gov/whats_new.shtml)

### 17. IEEE P1547 Draft Standard for Interconnecting DER Moves Forward

The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) P1547 Draft Standard for Interconnecting Distributed Resources With Electric Power systems is now being prepared for the IEEE Standards Board June 2003 meeting for publication approval. Based on this schedule, the standard could be published this summer.

[http://www.eere.energy.gov/distributedpower/news/0303\\_p1547.html](http://www.eere.energy.gov/distributedpower/news/0303_p1547.html)

## State Activities

### 18. Presentations Online from Workshop for State Fuel Cell Managers

The Clean Energy Funds Network hosted a National Organizing Workshop for State Fuel Cell Managers in February 2003. Presentations posted online include those from officials at State Fuel Cell Programs in Texas, Michigan, Ohio and New York.

[http://cleanenergyfunds.org/DC\\_FC\\_Workshop/DC\\_FC\\_TOC.htm](http://cleanenergyfunds.org/DC_FC_Workshop/DC_FC_TOC.htm)

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Industry Headlines
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*19. Shell, GM Partner on Hydrogen Infrastructure, FCVs*

General Motors and Shell Hydrogen announced a partnership to move fuel cell vehicles forward, with a focus on a real-life demonstration of hydrogen fuel cell vehicles and fueling infrastructure technology in the Washington, DC, area. The demonstration will feature a hydrogen pump at a Shell retail gas station to support a GM fleet of fuel cell vehicles.

<http://www.shell.com/home/hydrogen-en/downloads/SHGM%20Release%20Final2.doc>

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*20. Toshiba Develops Fuel Cell for PCs*

Toshiba has developed a direct methanol fuel cell for use with portable computers. The fuel cell can power a PC for up to 10 hours with a methanol tank of 100 cc. Toshiba plans to commercialize the technology in 2004.

[http://www.toshiba.co.jp/about/press/2003\\_03/pr0501.htm](http://www.toshiba.co.jp/about/press/2003_03/pr0501.htm)

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*21. Fuel Cell Dedicated in Los Angeles*

A 250-kW fuel cell power plant built by FuelCell Energy has been formally dedicated at the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power's downtown headquarters. The fuel cell went online last month, and is providing power to the grid. The power plant uses natural gas as the fuel.

[http://www.fossil.energy.gov/techline/tl\\_fuelcell\\_losangeles\\_print.html](http://www.fossil.energy.gov/techline/tl_fuelcell_losangeles_print.html)

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*22. New Report Says There's Plenty of Platinum for Fuel Cells*

The International Platinum Association has reported that "enough platinum resource is available worldwide to meet any foreseeable future demand spurred by the commercialization of fuel cells."

<http://www.energyinfosource.com/dg/news.cfm?id=18241>

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*23. Eighth Grove Fuel Cell Symposium*

Eighth Grove Fuel Cell Symposium – "Building Fuel Cell Industries" – ExCeL, London, UK. 24-26 September 2003 – <http://www.grovefuelcell.com>. Conference: sm.wilkinson@elsevier.com. Exhibition: pamchattin@aol.com.

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