

PRESS RELEASE

Fuel Cells and Hydrogen top Europe's Innovation Investment Package Renewed public-private support to boost research, competitiveness and jobs

Brussels, 10 July 2013 – NEW-IG (New Energy World Industry Grouping), the leading European industrial association representing a major part of Europe's hydrogen and fuel cell industry, with more than 60 members – half of them SMEs, welcomes the European Commission's proposal to renew and strengthen the Fuel Cells and Hydrogen (FCH) Joint Undertaking. It is one of five proposed research and innovation partnerships under Horizon 2020¹ and builds upon the success of the first generation of the programme from 2008-2013. Some 150 projects and over 430 industry and research organisations have won support under the annual, competitive calls for proposals issued by the current programme.

The Proposal for a Council Regulation on the Fuel Cells and Hydrogen 2 Joint Undertaking, released today, creates the basis for a renewed public-private partnership aimed at expanding the use of clean and efficient technologies in transport, industry and energy. It aims to step up activities and move the sector forward with a budget of 1.4 billion euros until 2020, equally shared by the European private sector and European Union.

Pierre-Etienne Franc, Chairman of the Board of NEW-IG said, "We believe that a robust European programme for Fuel Cells and Hydrogen is the right tool to coordinate objectives, pool resources and advance the technology for the benefit of the European economy. This renewed political and financial support is a sign that Europe will strive to establish this technology as a key enabler for its future energy and transport roadmap. Joint priority setting and a long term perspective are key to enabling private investment in such complex, societal challenges."

Màire Geoghegan-Quinn, European Commissioner for Research, Innovation and Science, added, "Thanks to the current Fuel Cells and Hydrogen partnership, you can take a ride on hydrogen-powered pollution-free buses in five cities across Europe. But much research and development is still needed to make this application of FCH technology widespread and those for clean energy production and storage commercially attractive. The EU and industry will continue to work together under this new initiative to help reduce the carbon footprint of our energy and transport sectors."

¹ Horizon 2020 – See background

The strategic objectives of the renewed Programme are to:

- Boost the share of FCH technologies in a sustainable, low-carbon energy and transport system
- Enhance energy security in Europe (as opposed to dependence on other regions) at affordable prices for end-consumers
- Ensure a world leading, competitive European FCH industry with research excellence leading to industry innovation, growth and jobs.

The implementation of the FCH JU programme of research, development and demonstration for fuel cell and hydrogen technologies for the period 2014 – 2020 is structured around two main innovation pillars² in road transport and energy supported by cross-cutting research activities that integrate technologies supporting both energy and transport sectors such as standards, training and studies.

Henri Winand, CEO of Intelligent Energy concluded, “This public-private partnership is testament to the very real possibilities of hydrogen as an important energy vector for more sustainable and competitive energy systems. It is combined with an investment in jobs, economic competitiveness, energy efficiency and thus, an investment with environmental benefits too.”

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BACKGROUND

About NEW-IG

New Energy World Industry Grouping (NEW-IG) is the leading European industrial association working to accelerate the market deployment of fuel cells and hydrogen technologies. NEW-IG represents a major part of Europe’s hydrogen and fuel cell industry, bringing together more than 60 members – half of them SMEs – established in 17 European countries. The Industry Grouping partners with the European Commission and the research community within the Fuel Cells and Hydrogen Joint Undertaking. This unique public-private partnership supports the development and commercial introduction of FCH technologies through annual calls with a budget of nearly €1 billion in 2008 – 2013, of which the private sector contributes 50%. www.new-ig.eu

About FCH JU

The current Fuel Cells and Hydrogen Joint Undertaking was established in 2008- 2013, as the first illustrative example of a public-private partnership instrument under the European Strategic Energy Technology Plan (SET-Plan), technology pillar of the EU's energy and climate policy. Its objective is to accelerate the development of fuel cell and hydrogen technologies in Europe to enable their commercialisation. The FCH JU programme has provided a unique platform for cooperation, much-needed long-term stability for investment and - with a budget of almost €1 billion – concrete funding support for a portfolio of circa 150 projects. Its continuation and strengthening until 2020 is currently being proposed. <http://www.fch-ju.eu/>

² Innovation Pillars – see background

The new programme will focus on two innovation pillars:

Innovation Pillars 2014-2020

- Innovation pillar 1 : FCH Technologies for Transportation Systems

Road transport will be the principal priority as it offers the highest potential for addressing EU climate change and energy security objectives. The programme will address performance improvement and cost reduction of the next generation of fuel cell electric vehicles and developing the necessary hydrogen refuelling infrastructure – both critical points for mass market introduction. Non-road mobile vehicles and machinery, maritime, rail and aviation applications will also be included.

- Innovation pillar 2: FCH Technologies for Energy Systems

In energy, the FCH JU programme will focus on hydrogen as the flexible link between renewable energy and range of use in both mobile and stationary systems. Another focus area will be storage of renewable electricity and grid balancing, including hydrogen blending in the natural gas grid. Finally fuel cells in power, Combined Heat and Power and Combined Cooling Heat and Power systems for domestic, commercial, municipal and industrial applications uses and other small applications will also be included.

About Horizon 2020

Horizon 2020 is one of the key instruments implementing the [Innovation Union](#), a [Europe 2020](#) flagship initiative aimed at securing Europe's global competitiveness. Running from 2014 to 2020, the EU's new programme for research and innovation will be part of the drive to create new growth and jobs in Europe. For more information see: http://ec.europa.eu/research/horizon2020/index_en.cfm?pg=h2020

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