

PRESS RELEASE



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Where will the Energy for Hydrogen Production come from?

European Hydrogen Association, publishes new study that sheds light on the most realistic hydrogen production pathways.

Brussels, April 10, 2007 – Hydrogen as an energy vector and fuel cells as highly efficient energy systems are widely seen as crucial components of a new global energy and transport system that will substitute the current fossil fuel based infrastructures with a sustainable, secure and competitive alternative.

In recent years, the question has been asked repeatedly “Where will the hydrogen come from?”. This question is important, but can only be answered if a more fundamental question is considered namely “where will our energy come from in the coming decades?” Today it mainly comes from finite fossil and nuclear energy carriers; in the long term, it will come from renewable energies. A new brochure of the European Hydrogen Association, EHA, “**Where will the Energy for Hydrogen Production come from?**”, published on the occasion of the Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Exhibit at the Hanover Fair from April 16 till 20, 2007, covers this basic question of availability of raw energy materials. The study has been commissioned by the German Hydrogen And Fuel Cell Association, DWV, and was executed by Ludwig-Bölkow-Systemtechnik GmbH.

In its conclusions the study states that the expected reduction in oil production will leave a gap that cannot be filled by fossil and nuclear energy resources. On the other hand, renewable energies will significantly increase in the coming decades, however, for some time will make too small a contribution to close this gap. Moreover, no production or application solution should exclude a more efficient use of energy. It also shows that biofuels alone cannot keep the world moving and, therefore, that hydrogen will become an important fuel in the transport sector. Only when it is possible to develop electric automobiles with acceptable features (storage density, durability, cold start, price) will the use of hydrogen be unnecessary. In any case, from today’s viewpoint, this is highly improbable.

The EHA is organizing a Workshop on April 19, 2007 in Brussels, to identify synergies and issues of coming interest between renewable energy production and the use of hydrogen, as a contribution to the development of the European Strategic Energy Technology Plan announced by the EU Commission in its Energy Package in the beginning of this year.

Bringing together as active members thirteen national associations (BE, DE, ES, F, H IT, LV, N, NL, PT, PL, SE, UK) and the main hydrogen infrastructure development companies (Acciona Biocombustibles S.A., Air Liquide, Air Products, Hydro, Hydrogenics, the Linde Group, Shell Hydrogen), the EHA is actively promoting the integration of hydrogen applications in EU’s transport and energy policy and the establishment of an EU Joint Technology Initiative for Hydrogen and Fuel Cells to facilitate the development of a commercial market. The EHA is promoting the third European Hydrogen Energy Conference in Maastricht from June 18-22, 2007 (www.ehec2007.com) organized in collaboration with the Dutch Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Association.

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