

PRESS RELEASE



For immediate release

The European Hydrogen Association, EHA, welcomes industry commitment to development of commercial fuel cell cars and hydrogen refuelling infrastructure built-up.

Brussels, September 14, 2009. The European Hydrogen Association, EHA, (www.h2euro.org) promoting the use of hydrogen as a clean and efficient energy carrier for transport and stationary power applications, welcomes the recent industry announcements expressing their strong commitment to develop a hydrogen refuelling infrastructure and the roll out of commercial fuel cell vehicles by 2015.

The partners of the initiative "H2 Mobility", Linde, Shell, Daimler, EnBW, OMV, Total, Vattenfall and the NOW GmbH National Organisation Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Technology announced to collaborate in evaluating options for an area-wide roll-out of hydrogen fuelling stations in Germany to support the introduction of series produced hydrogen powered vehicles..

Also last week the world's leading car manufacturers, Daimler AG, Ford Motor Company, General Motors Corporation/Opel, Honda Motor Co., Ltd., Hyundai Motor Company, Kia Motors Corporation, the alliance Renault SA and Nissan Motor Corporation and Toyota Motor Corporation, in a joint statement are anticipating that from 2015 onwards a quite significant number of electric vehicles with fuel cells, a few hundred thousand units over life cycle on a worldwide basis, could be commercialised.

These announcements emphasize the important role that hydrogen and fuel cell powered vehicles will play in the world's transition to clean electric transport. Many regional and local communities are already conducting demonstration projects and integrating hydrogen as an energy carrier, next to electricity, in their transport systems. The European Regions and Municipalities Partnership for Hydrogen and Fuel Cells, HyRaMP (www.hy-ramp.eu), hosted by the EHA in Brussels, is actively supporting this integration and is organizing a seminar on October 7, 2009 in Brussels to highlight the role of hydrogen in EU, national and local policy and the need to leverage funding for demonstration and market development activities. To register please contact the secretary at secretariat@hy-ramp.eu.

The EHA, representing fifteen national associations (BE, CH, CZ, DE, ES, F, H, IT, LV, N, NL, PT, PL, SE, UK), and the main hydrogen infrastructure development companies in Europe (Air Liquide, Air Products, ENI, StatoilHydro, the Linde Group, Shell Hydrogen) fully supports the European Commission's reference in its Transport communication of last June (COM 2009/279/4) to the need for the implementation for demonstration projects and public interventions with regards to the development of infrastructure that supports new vehicles like "smart grids for electric transport or hydrogen distribution networks". The EHA however strongly suggests coordinating electric transport infrastructure development for battery and fuel cell powered vehicles, to ensure the most efficient use of primary energy including renewable sources to power these vehicles and to make the best use of available EU funding programmes.