

PRESS RELEASE

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The Fuel Cell and Hydrogen Network NRW

The objective of the "Fuel Cell And Hydrogen Network NRW" of the EnergyRegion.NRW, which was founded in 2000, is to develop fuel cells and compatible system components, backed by targeted basic research. Fuel cell systems are to be introduced in early markets building a bridge to the mass market. Parallel to this, one aim is to develop a demand-based sustainable hydrogen energy market.

Around 360 mainly medium-sized companies and research institutes have come together under the auspices of the network. The members are located mainly in NRW, but come also from abroad. It is the largest network in Europe dealing with this topic.

The network offers numerous services to its members: organisation of workshops and working groups, joint exhibitions on international fairs and delegation trips for entrepreneurs. The main activity is the initiation of co-operation projects. The network provides assistance in seeking partners as well as initial advice when applying for subsidies. To date, the State Government has funded 90 fuel cell and hydrogen projects in North Rhine-Westphalia. For this purpose around 100 million Euros have been provided to date from the State NRW and by the European Union (European Regional Development Fund – EFRE); with a total investment of 165 million Euros. The topics of the projects range from the development of system components until the production of applications in the portable, mobile and stationary sector. The "NRW Hydrogen HyWay", program by the government of NRW launched in 2008, provides for development and demonstration projects and other infrastructure measures approx. 60 million Euros. From 2009 to 2011 a great number of individual projects will be initiated along the existing hydrogen pipeline in the Rhine-Ruhr area (total length approx. 230 km) at several locations. The project shall be visualised at the 18th World Hydrogen Energy Conference, 16-21 May 2010 in Essen.

This network of the EnergyRegion.NRW has contributed to the fact that NRW is increasingly considered around the world to be one of the leading fuel cell locations in Europe. This is ultimately substantiated on the one hand by the close cooperation between the network and its members and partners from the USA, Canada and the Asia, and on the other hand by the settlement of fuel cell companies.

For further information please contact:

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