

## **PRESSE RELEASE**

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18th World Hydrogen Energy Conference (WHEC) to set the course in Essen in May 2010:

### **Hydrogen indispensable for mobile future**

The 18th World Hydrogen Energy Conference / WHEC 2010 will take place from May 16 to 21, 2010 in Messe Essen under the auspices of the International Association for Hydrogen Energy (IAHE). It is organised by the EnergieAgentur.NRW with the support of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia. The aim of the conference is to ensure that the energy resource hydrogen plays a clear role in the development of a sustainable, climate-friendly energy economy. Around 1,500 people from Germany and abroad are expected to attend this international conference with the accompanying trade fair and various side events. **Internet:** [www.whec2010.com](http://www.whec2010.com)

Hydrogen as a source of energy is indispensable, especially when it comes to our mobile future. "It fits perfectly in the current discussion on electromobility and renewable energies", claims Prof. Dr.-Ing. Detlef Stolten of the Jülich Research Institute, who is acting as chair of the 18th World Hydrogen Energy Conference. "However", adds Prof. Stolten, "we have to make greater efforts to convince decision makers and make them more aware of the main technical advantages of hydrogen."

In his preview of WHEC 2010 Prof. Stolten pleads for a meaningful, energy-efficient combination of battery and hydrogen technology for the climate-friendly vehicle of the coming production generations: "I think that hydrogen will play a major role in the field of an ecologically sound mobility particularly in combination with fuel cells. Batteries will come in for short distance commuting and as a means for hybridization of fuel cell systems. The WHEC can and will also provide answers here."

#### **First day will set a clear course**

According to Prof. Stolten, the great interest shown abroad to date demonstrates that WHEC 2010 will be a large and, in its significance for the industry, unparalleled platform for an international exchange of ideas and experience. This is highlighted in particular by the numerous registrations for posters and papers and by the presentations promised by countries and industrial exhibitors. The comprehensive conference agenda will be accompanied by an international specialist trade fair showing the latest developments in the hydrogen sector.

Other programme items scheduled include pupils' days, a students' day and a teachers' day. And we should not forget that an extensive framework programme will be put on by the host city of Essen, the European Capital of Culture in 2010. In Prof. Stolten's words: "The first day of WHEC on May 17, 2010 is intended in particular to set a clear course for

the conference, when policy-makers and important representatives of the economy and industry will help us in our efforts to create a better understanding of the world of hydrogen."

### **WHEC already hosted by Germany in 1996**

As early as 1996 Germany, and more specifically the city of Stuttgart, was the venue for WHEC, which is traditionally held every two years on a different continent (in 2008 in Brisbane/Australia and in 2012 in Calgary/Canada). So what has happened since then? For Prof. Stolten there is no question "that the current technical standard in hydrogen and fuel cell technology is incomparably higher." It is now possible to state that vehicles with this technology "are producible". Prof. Stolten underpins this with a few facts: an appreciable, but definitely also sustainable reduction in costs in fuel cell technology, major progress in hydrogen storage, and serious efforts and many highly promising projects on the part of companies to help hydrogen technology attain market maturity.

### **Information for the interested public as well**

WHEC will also grant the interested general public an insight into the future with hydrogen applications. Again in the words of Prof. Stolten: "We do not only want to give Essen residents the opportunity to find out about what is going on at WHEC, but also to report on the broad range of possible applications for hydrogen as a source of energy. It is the conference's clear objective to motivate the specialist world to open up and facilitate future prospects for hydrogen. Some of these are already envisaged and others are new. We are also highly interested in showing policymakers that hydrogen and, in the final analysis, also the fuel cell constitute realistic technologies which are worth promoting consistently, for the long term and in a highly targeted fashion."

### **Information on the conference**

18th World Hydrogen Energy Conference 2010 (WHEC 2010)

Dates: May 16 – 21, 2010

Venue: Essen, Germany

Internet: [www.whec2010.com](http://www.whec2010.com)

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