

# analyst view

## The Launch of UKH2Mobility

18 JANUARY 2012



# UK H<sub>2</sub> Mobility

*(Source: UKH2Mobility)*

Today saw the launch of UKH2Mobility at the Royal Society in London. The project brings together thirteen industry participants with three UK Government departments (listed below) and the European Fuel Cells and Hydrogen Joint Undertaking (FCH JU). All participants have signed a Memorandum of Understanding agreeing to share knowledge and expertise towards the shared goals.

UKH2Mobility is being facilitated by McKinsey & Co., which has prior experience of the European fuel cell industry from its involvement authoring the [European powertrain study](#), and in its involvement in the German H<sub>2</sub>Mobility project. The project will draw from these previous studies where possible, but will include up to date, UK-specific information. All commercially sensitive data used in the report will be held by McKinsey and not made available for publishing.

Initially UKH2Mobility will investigate the potential for hydrogen as a fuel for ultra-low carbon vehicles in the UK and plans to publish its evaluation by the end of 2012 in a publicly available report. Positive results will then lead to the next phase of the project: to develop a strategy and business case to facilitate the necessary hydrogen infrastructure for the anticipated 2014/2015 rollout of fuel cell electric vehicles (FCEV) to consumers.

Speaking at the launch of UKH2Mobility, Minister for Business & Enterprise, Mark Prisk said: "The UK is proving itself to be a key early market for ultra-low emission vehicles with growing numbers of electric and plug-in hybrids appearing on our roads. The Government is supporting this market by investing £400million to support the development, demonstration and deployment of low and ultra-low emission vehicles. UKH2Mobility will bring together industry expertise to establish the UK as a

serious global player in the manufacture and use of hydrogen fuel cell electric vehicles and the supporting infrastructure.”

Jerry Hardcastle, Vice-President Vehicle Design & Development at Nissan UK added: “This is an important step for the automotive sector towards the development of clean vehicle technologies and zero emission mobility. It will lay many of the foundations for the commercial deployment of hydrogen-powered fuel cell electric vehicles which could represent a large segment of the UK market in the coming years. With this comprehensive list of partners we can be assured to have all the knowledge necessary to make UKH2 Mobility an exhaustive and credible study.”

Kevin Michaelis, Regional Vice President, Liquid Bulk/Generated Gases - Air Products Europe commented: “This project brings together the leading hydrogen infrastructure providers, at the forefront of deployment worldwide, with the common goal of supporting the rollout of hydrogen transport across the United Kingdom. Working together with Government and leading car manufacturers we can support the creation of a hydrogen transport infrastructure that will dramatically cut harmful vehicle emissions and move the UK towards a zero carbon transport system.”

Finally, Henri Winand, Chief Executive Officer, Intelligent Energy added: “UKH2Mobility is a ground-breaking industry led task force. Its job is to roll its sleeves up and ensure that the UK is well positioned for the commercial roll-out of hydrogen fuel cell vehicles from 2014/15 as part of a balanced portfolio of drivetrains. Fuel cell vehicles, storage and refuelling technology are here today, they work! We now need to look at how we can make these elements, together with the hydrogen refuelling infrastructure, work most effectively to enable the UK to take full advantage of hydrogen as a transport fuel; stimulating inward investment, GDP growth and securing and creating new jobs”.

Six fuel cell vehicles were on display at the event including a Toyota FCHV-Adv, a Vauxhall HydroGen4 and Daimler’s F-CELL; the FCH-JU brought its Hyundai iX-35 and Intelligent Energy brought a black cab and its Suzuki Bergmann fuel cell scooter. Air Products also demonstrated its refuelling technology, and fuel cell component supplier Johnson Matthey Fuel Cells showcased its catalyst, membrane and MEA technology. Nissan had its latest fuel cell stack on display and ITM Power had its hydrogen production technology on show. After the formal launch, Mark Prisk toured the exhibition area to meet representatives from all the signatory companies and learn more about the technologies involved.

UKH2Mobility remains open to new members, so if you believe your company can contribute to the coordinated rollout of FCEV and hydrogen infrastructure in the UK and is interested in joining the group, contact The Office for Low Emission Vehicles (OLEV) at the Department for Transport (DfT), on [olev.enquiries@olev.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:olev.enquiries@olev.gsi.gov.uk).

**Industrial MoU signatories (with links):**

[Air Liquide Hydrogen Energy, SA](#)

[Air Products plc.](#)

[Daimler AG](#)

[Hyundai Motor Company](#)

[Intelligent Energy Limited](#)

ITM Power plc.  
Johnson Matthey Fuel Cells  
Nissan Motor Manufacturing (UK) Limited  
Scottish and Southern Energy plc.  
Tata Motors European Technical Centre plc.  
The BOC Group Limited  
Toyota Motor Corporation  
Vauxhall Motors

**UK Government participants:**

The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS)  
The Department for Energy and Climate Change (DECC)  
The Department for Transport (DfT)

Personally I am very excited by developments like this. While fuel cell vehicles have enjoyed high-profile status and are well known to the public, at the same time they have been hampered by delays and disappointments which now mean some people believe they will never see them on the roads. With the auto makers increasingly aligning behind projects like this one today, the German H2Mobility project, H2moves Scandinavia and many others, the issue of hydrogen infrastructure development is being addressed directly. As such I feel the 2014/2015 target for commercialising fuel cell electric vehicles is tangible and I for one am looking forward to it.

**Dan Carter**    Manager  
dancarter@fuelcelltoday.com  
www.fuelcelltoday.com