



Press Release

Brussels, 17 January 2012

Today, the Fuel Cells and Hydrogen Joint Undertaking launches its 5th call for proposals worth €150 million to support research and demonstration activities in innovative energy technologies

The FCH JU public private partnership with a total budget amounting to nearly €1bn to be invested by 2013, publishes its fifth annual call for proposals today. With € 77, 5 million, to be matched by in-kind contributions from industry, research organisations and possibly national funds, the FCH JU confirms its dedication to accelerate the market entry of fuel cells and hydrogen technologies. Recognised as able to contribute to the decarbonisation of transport and energy systems, to a more efficient use of energy and renewables sources, as well as to increased energy security, these technologies have the potential to sustain EU competitiveness and job creation in the face of fierce competition from US, Japan Korea and China, in these technologies.

Welcoming the launch of this fifth call, the Chairman of the Governing Board and of the Industry Grouping of the Joint Undertaking, Pierre-Etienne Franc, reiterates:

"European industries and SMEs have emerged as highly credible players in developing and demonstrating fuel cells and hydrogen technologies. Applications such as cars, busses, light duty and material handling vehicles, are technology-ready. To go the extra mile and start deployment of innovative technologies competing with mature ones, can not be purely driven by market forces: pooling public resources on a long term basis is crucial to generating leverage for private investment, the main drive of innovation. Favorable policy orientations and regulations are also vital assets".

Bert De Colvenaer, Executive Director of the FCH Joint Undertaking, adds: *" the 2012 call will cover real-time demonstration activities to prepare for fuel cell systems market entry with improved technology maturity and cost reduction targets. It will also cover R&D for enhancing systems to meet operational and cost competitiveness requirements or to reduce the time to demonstration and deployment. With a light organisation, we are currently running 70 projects in parallel and will soon reach 100 projects from the 4 previous calls for proposals. To support deployment strategies, the FCH JU is working on studies related to European fuel cells and hydrogen 'Roll Out' and commercialisation plans for vehicles, stationary applications, busses and material handling vehicles".*

This call covers 31 topics, split between 5 application areas: transportation and refuelling infrastructure (€ 26 millions); hydrogen production and distribution (€ 8,75 millions); stationary power generation (€ 27 millions); early markets (€ 10, 25 millions) (portable, micro applications or handling vehicles) and cross-cutting issues (€ 5,5 millions) development of life cycle assessment, codes and standards, socio-economic research, public awareness, training.

Nearly 70% of the funding will support transport and refuelling infrastructure and stationary applications topics.

Next steps

The deadline for submission of proposals is **24 May 2012**. Evaluation of proposals will be carried out in June 2012 and projects selected for contract negotiations should already be announced by the autumn.

Background

The Fuel Cells and Hydrogen Joint Undertaking was established on 14 October 2008, until 2013, as the first illustrative example of a public-private partnership instrument under the European Strategic Energy Technology Plan (SET-Plan), technology pillar of the EU's energy and climate policy. Autonomous since 15 November 2010, the FCH JU aims to speed up the development of fuel cell and hydrogen technologies in Europe to enable their commercialisation between 2010 and 2020. Current membership includes the European Commission and 49 companies, from multinationals to SMEs represented by the Industry Grouping (NEW-IG), as well as 61 universities and research institutes, represented by the Research Grouping (N.ERGHY) engaging more than 2000 researchers in the field of fuel cells and hydrogen.

For more information

A Public Information Session and Brokerage event 2012 will take place on **9th of February 2012** in the premises of the FCH JU Programme Office, in Brussels.

The Public Information Session on the Call for proposals will cover the topics of this year's call, processes, rules for submission of proposals as well as other useful information for participants. A brokerage event co-organised by the Industry Grouping (NEW-IG) and the Research Grouping (N.ERGHY) of the FCH Joint Undertaking will follow with a view to support consortium build-up for projects proposals. Sessions will be organised by application areas and topics in order to facilitate concrete discussions and targeted networking. Each specific topic of the Call for proposals 2012 will be discussed twice to allow participants to take part in all discussions of their interest.

To get more information and register for the event, please contact the Industry grouping (secretariat@fchindustry-jti.eu) or the Research Grouping (secretariat@nerghy.eu).

Call information: <http://www.fch-ju.eu>

<http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/page/cooperation?callIdentifier=FCH-JU-2012-1>

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