



PATH Update

by Jay Laskin, NHA Representative to PATH and Member of the PATH Board of Directors

The Partnership for Advancing the Transition to Hydrogen (PATH) is four years old, with a goal of coordinating and supporting activities among country associations for the benefit of the associations and their members. Unlike the International Partnership for Hydrogen Energy (IPHE) which is limited to national governmental officials, PATH focuses on non-governmental organizations and their members.

In June of this year, PATH arranged a meeting in Lyon, France at the 16th World Hydrogen Energy Conference with executives from 18 international hydrogen organizations. After evaluating the results of a subsequent survey of those 18 country associations (plus five others who were unable to participate in person), the PATH Board determined that its Value Proposition and Plan for creating an international hydrogen business and educational network is being accepted and supported. Therefore, it approved actions for implementation of the Plan.

PATH is pleased to announce that two new member associations have joined in October: l'Association Française de l'Hydrogène, of France, as a Principal Member, and the Polish Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Association as an Affiliate Member. This brings the current total number of members to five:

- USA
- Canada
- Japan
- France
- Poland

In addition, PATH has received positive letters of interest and commitment from associations in Denmark, Norway, the United Kingdom, and Italy. At this time, there are expectations for 10 or more member associations by year's end.

PATH has adopted an aggressive agenda over the course of the upcoming months. With the support of its members, PATH's initial priorities include:

- **Promotion of PATH and Its Member Associations**
Through participation in major conferences and events, PATH will reach out to highlight the hydrogen work of PATH and its associations.

- **Increased Promotion and Strengthening of Major Hydrogen Conferences and Events**
PATH is working to enhance and promote several major upcoming hydrogen conferences including:

- 3rd International Hydrogen & Fuel Cell Expo 2007 (Tokyo, Japan, Feb. 2007)
- NHA Annual Hydrogen Conference 2007 (San Antonio, TX, Mar. 2007)
- 3rd European Hydrogen Energy Conference (Maastricht, Netherlands, June 2007)

- **Establishment of a Query Service**
PATH will create an open line of communication and networking service such that PATH Associations and their members may easily gather and share information with those of other PATH associations and their members.

- **University Exchange Programs**
PATH will assist universities and institutions of higher learning of PATH associations in promoting exchange programs.

How can NHA Members benefit from PATH?

Companies that are currently members of the NHA also receive PATH benefits! These benefits include:

- Increased ability to establish direct contacts in foreign countries for hydrogen business and academic purposes through the use of PATH corresponding members and contact lists.

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- Increased visibility, networking, and speaking opportunities for NHA members with the members of other foreign hydrogen associations through PATH and PATH-sponsored events.
- Coordination of information exchange among hydrogen associations and their members.
- Access to inside information about hydrogen programs, events, and activities around the world.
- The ability to use PATH's resources and global connections to enhance NHA hydrogen conferences and events with speakers and promote those events to broader public and/or targeted audiences.
- Direct access to PATH's Members' Only website for breaking news, database searches (to be developed), and contact information for PATH associations.

There are additional ways to take advantage of PATH's international activities. Organizations and individual companies may consider sponsoring PATH activities and programs. For example, for promotional purposes, members of PATH associations may sponsor the website, PATH's primary outreach tool to the world.

PATH has an active request to assist the Polish Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Association in selecting international speakers for its First Polish Forum on Fuel Cells and Hydrogen Technologies on September 5-7, 2007. PATH welcomes NHA members' input on ideas for speaking opportunities. Additional information is found on PATH's website at www.hpath.org.