



# Hydrogen: DOE Urges Private Sector to Play Larger Research Role

by Alex Kaplun, Greenwire (Reprinted with permission)

The Energy Department will continue to fund hydrogen technology research over the next few years, but it expects the private sector to start doing more to get new technologies on the market, a top DOE official said today.

Assistant Secretary Andy Karsner told reporters the agency would continue a hydrogen research program even though President Bush's initial push on the issue is set to expire this year.

In Bush's fiscal 2008 budget proposal, the administration is seeking \$309 million for hydrogen research, which would wrap up the five-year, \$1.2 billion initiative launched in 2003.

Karsner said the agency is uncertain of the extent of its hydrogen program starting in fiscal 2009 but said with several challenges remain and it is likely the government would continue to provide funding.

"I predict a strong and continuing robust future for the hydrogen program," Karsner said. "It has some very big obstacles to overcome."

At the same time, Karsner repeatedly emphasized that industry must assume a greater financial burden on research into hydrogen and other alternative-energy technologies and begin moving them to market.

"We are meeting success ... and our role should adjust accordingly," Karsner said.

One area where the private sector has recently sought increased federal aid: advanced battery technology -- a primary obstacle in the development of plug-in hybrid vehicles. The three major domestic automakers last month asked the government to provide \$500 million over five years for battery research.

The administration included in its budget request \$81 million for research on plug-in hybrids and advanced hybrids, but even that amount is less than what the automakers sought.

"I am not sure what drove or motivated the car companies to come out with their proposal," Karsner said. "To our mind that focus has been under way for sometime now."

Karsner said the agency was studying the automakers' request, but officials were intent on breaking the cycle of repeated multi-year research projects that did not put new technology on the market.

"We need them to be evolutionary rather than five year revolutions that succeed one another," he said. "I'm very focused on getting out of the discussion of another five year plan for a revolutionary technology. I want to talk about a fleet management plan."



# Int'l Collaboration Generates Hydrogen Business Dialog

by Karen Hall, National Hydrogen Association

There is a new urgency in Europe, the UK and the US to develop and implement sustainable energy solutions.

"The US and Europe – Getting Down to Business: Implementation of the Hydrogen Economy" will be held in Aberdeen Scotland on May 23-24, 2007 in conjunction with the "All Energy Exhibition and Conference." Hydrogen and fuel cells are increasingly popular topics in the UK, and the All Energy Conference organizers have responded to this by working with the United Kingdom Hydrogen

Association, Scottish Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Association, and the Mountain States Hydrogen Business Council to create a robust 2-day conference. The National Hydrogen Association is proud to support this important event.

The conference will illustrate European/US trading links; European/world trading links; illustrate the value of regional coordination/leadership; and adjourn with a compelling vision or future scenario.

Participants will leave with a better understanding of H2 and FC business sectors, opportunities happening now, and real world business cases to assist them in their own planning.

The All-Energy and H207 conferences are free for all visitors and exhibitors.

There are still a couple of opportunities for US companies to present their latest developments in the Quick Fire Business Session. If you are interested in presenting, please contact Karen Hall at the NHA: [hallK@hydrogenassociation.org](mailto:hallK@hydrogenassociation.org).

For more information on this international event, please visit [www.h207.com](http://www.h207.com).

