IPHE Press Release

IPHE Welcomes the Creation of the New "Hydrogen Council"

Brussels, Jan 20, 2017 – The announcement of the new "Hydrogen Council" (HC) is an important step forward in facilitating the development and deployment of fuel cell and hydrogen (FCH) technologies in the economy. The creation of the HC is a strong signal by globally leading multinational companies in the contribution they believe hydrogen will make in supporting clean and efficient energy and transportation systems, and, industrial processes. "The IPHE looks forward to engaging and working with the Hydrogen Council to better understand the challenges and options in the effective use of fuel cells and hydrogen in the economy, based on national circumstances" said Bernard Frois, Chair of the IPHE, in Davos.

Sustained global research, development, and demonstrations by industry and government have led to technology maturity and early market deployment in Asia, North America, and Europe. The first generation of commercially available fuel cell electric vehicles and buses are deployed world-wide. Over 60,000 commercial fuel cells were shipped worldwide in 2015. There are now over 180,000 combined heat and power units installed and thousands of warehouse materials handling units, back-up power systems, and portable power devices operating today that use FCH technologies.

FCH technologies can enable clean energy systems, enhance energy security, help address local environmental goals, and contribute to economic growth. Hydrogen and electricity are two complementary and viable energy carriers available now that can help effectively decarbonize our energy systems and transportation applications. FCH technologies can use a wide variety of low carbon energy sources, from intermittent renewable electricity generation to biomass to chemical waste streams, store and then provide energy when needed, and in so doing can increase the effectiveness of energy generation systems and substantially reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The world has used hydrogen for decades in food products, chemical processes, semiconductor fabrication, and refined oil products. As hydrogen capacity builds and competitive fuel cell systems continue to develop, they can complement and gradually replace unabated fossil-fuelled systems.

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