

PRESS RELEASE -

HTceramix/SOFCpower's President Elected to Industry Grouping Board of Fuel Cell & Hydrogen Joint Technology Initiative

Yverdon, Switzerland / Trento, Italy, April 4, 2007 – HTceramix/SOFCpower's president, Dr. Alberto Ravagni, has been elected as a board member of the Industry Grouping for the Joint Technology Initiative (JTI) on fuel cells and hydrogen. 45 companies from all over Europe have joined forces in a new international not-for-profit association as the first step to create a European public-private partnership – a Joint Technology Initiative – for fuel cells and hydrogen. This association, called the JTI Industry Grouping, will be the key interlocutor and partner of the European Commission to create the JTI.

Dr. Ravagni's appointment was made during the constitutive general assembly of the Industry Grouping with the support of leading European fuel cell organizations. Within the board, he will represent the interests of fuel cell component manufacturers.



Photograph of the JTI Industry Grouping. From left to right: Alberto Ravagni –HTceramix/SOFCpower (IT-CH), Rolls Royce - (UK), Augustin Escardino - NTDA (ES) Peter Fröschle Daimler Chrisler (DE), Herbert Wancura – ALPPS (AT), Gijs Vriesman- Shell (NL). Photographer: Matthias Altmann

Having fulfilled the in-depth preparations for the JTI on their side, the 45 Members of the JTI Industry Grouping are now calling upon the European Commission to accelerate the process and adopt a proposal for the creation of the JTI on fuel cells and hydrogen as soon as possible.

"If Europe is serious about addressing climate change, security of energy supply and competitiveness in new technologies, we must unite forces and have a strong public-private partnership to accelerate the wide-scale market introduction of fuel cell and hydrogen technologies.

The European industry has repeatedly shown over the past three years that it is ready to invest in a Joint Technology Initiative the last step being the founding of the respective Industry Grouping. The establishment of a JTI for fuel cells and hydrogen needs to occur without further delay. Not moving forward on this would be a lost opportunity for Europe" said Herbert Kohler, Chair of the European Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Technology Platform and Vice-Chair of the JTI Industry Grouping.

Board Members of the Industry Grouping are:

- Gijs Van Breda (Chair), Shell, The Netherlands
- Herbert Wancura (Vice-Chair), ALPPS Fuel Cell Systems GmbH, Austria
- Herbert Kohler (Vice-Chair), DaimlerChrysler, Germany
- Jonathan Lewis, Rolls Royce Fuel Cell Systems, United Kingdom
- Augustin Escardino, NTDA, Spain
- Alberto Ravagni, HTceramix/SOFCpower, Italy

SOFCpower is an Italian company newly constituted by carving-out the SOFC activities started 5 years ago within the Eurocoating SPA-Turbocoating Group. SOFCpower leverages 30 years of industrial expertise in manufacturing & service technologies. Turbocoating is a privately held company dedicated to developing and manufacturing coatings and special processes for gas turbine and aeroengine component manufacturers (OEM). SOFCpower's mission is to become a leader in the development & commercialization of stacks and energy generating units to be integrated into SOFC systems.

HTceramix SA is a dynamic and rapidly progressing developer of solid oxide fuel cells. HTc' mission is to manufacture and deliver Swiss quality fully integrated SOFC generators to system integrators at competitive prices. At the heart of its development is the SOFCConnex™ based stack which uses a unique approach for stacking ceramic fuel cells. Based in Yverdon, Switzerland, HTceramix was founded in 2000 using technology developed over 10 years at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (EPFL).

HTceramix and SOFCpower have established a partnership for the industrial production and commercialization of HTc' HoTbox™. SOFCpower is setting up a pilot production line in Trento, Italy for the production of HTc' HoTboxes™ that will be operational by the end of 2007.

For more information, please contact

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