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[Hier geht's zu dieser Pressemitteilung auf Deutsch!]

Saxony: Fuel cells for district heating

Contest for improvement project underway

Saxony's ministry for the environment will turn the city of Taucha into an "Ecological Model City". Among other things 1500 lignite fired single ovens in Zwick's settlement, a complex from the 30s, will be substituted by a central heat supply. Environmentally compatible energy carriers and innovative technologies for decentral heat and electricity supply will be used.

Such a project is an excellent occasion for fuel cells. This is a possibility which is explicitly mentioned in the call for proposals. Zwick's settlement is not connected to district heating, but natural gas is available, from which the hydrogen for a fuel cell can be generated. Commercial plants with phosphoric cells in the co-generation mode achieve efficiencies of 85 % and excel by high availability, low maintenance and almost no emissions. Demonstration projects at Hamburg, Nuremberg, Halle, and Oranienburg show predominantly positive experiences by all parties involved. More are planned in Germany and elsewhere.

The Taucha project is supported in the framework of the Saxon Program for Imission and Climate Protection. Interested engineering companies and plant suppliers are asked to submit a suitable preliminary planning until 24. July. More details about the contest are given by the Saxon State Ministry for Environment and Development, Department 42 (Mr. Sommer), P.O. Box 12 01 21, 01002 Dresden, Germany; phone (+49-351) 564-2219, Fax -2209.

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