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Hier geht's zu dieser Pressemitteilung auf Deutsch!

Fuel cell makes the hat-trick

Threefold winner in contest of ideas for Taucha

Dr. Dieter Reinfried, secretary of state in Saxony's ministry for environment and agriculture, today in Dresden awarded the winners of the contest "Innovative Heat Supply for the Zwick Settlement in the Ecological Example Town Taucha". **All awards were given to proposals in which fuel cells play a central role.** 1500 lignite-fired individual ovens in the Zwick Settlement, built in the 30s in the city of Taucha near Leipzig, will be replaced step by step by an innovative and environmentally benign system. Last May the ministry had issued a contest for ideas about this (see our press release 3/98).

Winners among 42 contributions were the proposals of HEW Contract and CONSULECTRA from Hamburg and of the engineering company Jochen Döhler from Leipzig (no other ranking was done). Both propose a district heating station with a phosphoric fuel cell to provide the base load of electricity and power. Peak loads will be supplied from the grid in case of electricity and from modern natural gas heaters in case of heat. On top of this there are other innovative elements as demanded in the call for proposals. A special award was given to Planungsgruppe M+M AG (Boeblingen/Dresden) which had proposed a decentral supply for 6 flats each using novel solid oxide fuel cells by Sulzer Hexis from Switzerland.

The hydrogen for all cells will be made internally from natural gas which is available on site. Further details of the realization of the proposals will be decided about soon. All winners will have the possibility to participate.

Because of its unparalleled efficiency the fuel cell is seen as the most important novel transformation technology in the energy economy. In the cogeneration mode the efficiency can be 85 %, because it generates electricity and heat immediately from chemical energy and avoids the costly detour over mechanical energy. Experts expect that the marked for stationary applications will grow considerably soon. Mobile application in cars is foreseeable for about 2004.

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