



Press Release No. 3/00  
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## Hamburg goes ahead to clean traffic

### *Hydrogen van fleet now fully operative*

**The hydrogen fleet in Hamburg is now fully operative.** Six Mercedes-Benz vans of well-known Hamburg companies are running in normal duty almost without emissions. These vehicles of the first generation of the project are equipped with internal combustion engines converted to hydrogen. The tailpipes emit almost nothing but water vapor. Thus what the major car makers present only as concept cars can be seen in operation in Hamburg's everyday traffic.

A part of the fleet will be presented to the public during an **event by the Hamburg Hydrogen Society and the Hamburg Chamber of Commerce on 27. March**. The project members will report about their experience and further objectives. Nikolaus Schuees, chairman of the Hamburg Chamber of Commerce, and Thomas Mirow, Senator for economic affairs, will welcome the participants. The symposium will be chaired by Joachim Gretz, chairman of the Hamburg Hydrogen Society and honorary member of the recently founded [European Hydrogen Association](#) (EHA). Related projects will be presented as well, among them those at [Munich Airport](#) and at [BMW](#), the [fuel cell heating station at Bahrenfeld](#) and ideas of DASA about [hydrogen in commercial aviation](#).

Germany's first [hydrogen filling station was opened in January 1999](#) on the ground of Hamburger Gaswerke. The vehicles supplied there are running for the delivery services [Hermes](#) and Hoyer, the utility [Hamburgische Electricitaets-Werke](#) (HEW), [Hamburger Gaswerke](#), [Hamburg Savings Bank](#) and [Hamburger Hochbahn](#) (transport company). Further members are [Messer Griesheim](#) (industrial gases), [Fahrzeugwerkstaetten Falkenried](#) (vehicle conversion), [Hamburgische Landesbank](#) (bank), m-tech GmbH, [TUEV Nord](#) and [Shell Germany](#). In case of success the project may well be extended to more vehicles.

For **details on the event** contact the [Hamburg Chamber of Commerce](#), external relations department, or the Hamburg Hydrogen Society, phone (+49-40) 36138-291, Fax -494.

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