



**Press Release No. 2/02**  
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## **Hesse establishes hydrogen initiative**

A hydrogen and fuel cell initiative for the state of Hesse was founded on 30. April 2002 at Frankfurt-Hoechst. It is a competency network for the interested parties and a platform for joint activities.

The German Hydrogen Association has a coordination function in the initiative, while the company Infraserb Hoechst, located in the industrial area of Frankfurt-Hoechst, supports it and the state ministries for environment and economy accompany it.

Apart from Infraserb Hoechst (Frankfurt) the companies Buderus (Wetzlar), Celanese Ventures (Frankfurt), Mainova (utility, Frankfurt), OMG (Hanau), Opel (Mainz-Kastel) and Schunk Kohlenstofftechnik (Giessen) as well as ISET (Kassel) and the universities of Darmstadt and Frankfurt for the research side take part in the discussions.

The idea behind the bundling of the competencies is to initiate projects to overcome the technical and economical challenges and to promote the application of the new technologies. Another important topic is the public representation of the field.

Back in March DWV had invited Wilhelm Dietzel, state minister for environment, and other officials of the state ministries as well as important hydrogen and fuel cell players from Hesse in order to prepare the way for the initiative. At this occasion minister Dietzel highlighted the importance of the development of hydrogen and fuel cells for an energy supply of Europe which is suitable for the future. Ecological and economical hopes and expectations associated these key technologies are of corresponding size.

The situation in the state of Hesse is particularly favorable because companies both producing and using fuel cells are there, and large amounts of hydrogen are available at economically attractive conditions. This became clear already during the Fuel Cell Forum Hesse which was held in April in the industrial area of Hoechst in Frankfurt. This event organized by the ministry for economy of Hesse was a contribution to network building among the players in the state. About 130 participants were invited by TechnologieStiftung Hessen (TSH) and discussed ways to support the breakthrough for the technologies which are environmentally friendly, but for the time being still too costly. This summer TSH will publish a "Competency Map Fuel Cell Hesse" which shows the fields of activity and the resources of the parties in the state of Hesse.

Interested companies from Hesse which are active in the field of hydrogen and fuel cells or interested in it can approach TechnologieStiftung Hessen ([www.hessen-umwelttech.de](http://www.hessen-umwelttech.de)) to learn more about the activities.

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