

ISO Focus 2004-01

World scene

International partnership to coordinate hydrogen technology development

According to the US Department of Energy Press Office, the US Secretary of Energy, Mr. Spencer Abraham, joined by Ministers representing 14 nations and the European Commission, signed on 20 November 2003 an agreement formally establishing the International Partnership for the Hydrogen Economy (IPHE). At this occasion, representatives from Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, the European Commission (EC), France, Germany, Iceland, India, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Norway, Russia and the United Kingdom were invited by the USA to sign the Terms of Reference formally creating the IPHE as an international mechanism to coordinate hydrogen research and hydrogen technology development and deployment.

Mr. Randy Dey, the Chair of ISO technical committee ISO/TC 197, *Hydrogen technologies*, considers that the IPHE cooperation in terms of research, development and deployment programmes is a worthwhile goal that could help advance the transition to a global hydrogen economy, complementing the work of the International Energy Agency.

Mr. Dey considers that IPHE could also play a role by facilitating the development of codes and standards through existing recognized international organizations such as ISO, the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) and the World Forum for the Harmonization of Vehicles Regulations (WP.29).

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