

Lord Hunt Visits Johnson Matthey Fuel Cells

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Johnson Matthey Fuel Cells (JMFC) today welcomed Lord Hunt of King's Heath, Minister of State for Energy, for a tour of its state of the art manufacturing facilities at Lydiard Fields, Swindon.

Johnson Matthey Fuel Cells is a world leader in the production of catalysed components for use in fuel cells, a technology for generating low carbon power.

During his visit today, Lord Hunt announced the creation of the latest Low Carbon Economic Area (LCEA) for hydrogen energy in partnership with the South West Regional Development Agency. At the same time, a series of funding packages were also announced to support the LCEA initiative. JMFC has been awarded around £1 million of this funding which will be used to scale up manufacturing capability to support the further commercialisation of fuel cells.

Fuel cell power sources offer zero or low carbon emissions, lower fuel bills and are non-polluting. Fuel cells generate power by directly combining a fuel (usually hydrogen) and oxygen from the air to produce electricity, heat and water. They use an electrochemical process to produce a direct current, without combustion and without moving parts. A fuel cell can therefore generate power cleanly, quietly and efficiently near to its point of use. Its potential applications include replacing batteries for portable electronic equipment, delivering heat and power for buildings and providing zero emission power for transport.

During his visit to the Swindon site, Lord Hunt took a tour of JMFC's state of the art manufacturing operations. The facility features the latest equipment for producing catalysed components which are high technology products found at the heart of most of today's fuel cells.



Johnson Matthey Fuel Cells

the power within

Dr Jack Frost, Director of Johnson Matthey Fuel Cells said, “We are delighted to welcome Lord Hunt to our global headquarters here in Swindon. The products we manufacture embody the key and enabling technologies for fuel cells and offer an efficient and economic source of low carbon power. We were very pleased to hear of our award of funding which will support the next phase of development in our manufacturing capability. As one of the major players in the hydrogen industry worldwide, we welcome this first regional initiative for hydrogen energy.”

Stephen Peacock, Executive Director of Enterprise and Innovation at the South West RDA commented, “Hydrogen fuel cells are a fantastic development when it comes to generating clean power incredibly efficiently. The South West is already a world leader in creating low carbon technologies, particularly in marine renewables. The hydrogen highway, running from South Wales along the M4 corridor into the South East, will help attract more cutting edge companies like Johnson Matthey into the area, allowing the South West to build infrastructure and expertise in another major form of low carbon power generation.”

Lord Hunt of King’s Heath, Minister of State for Energy said, “Cleaning up our energy supply and the fuel we use for transport will give the UK the opportunity to develop the low carbon industries of the future. Fuel cells and hydrogen can play a key role in cutting CO₂ emissions and reducing reliance on fossil fuels. Through this boost for hydrogen, innovative businesses like Johnson Matthey are well placed to benefit from the move to low carbon. I congratulate them on their funding award and thank them for this contribution to tackling climate change.”

Enquiries

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www.jmfuelcells.com

Notes to Editors

About Johnson Matthey Fuel Cells

Johnson Matthey Fuel Cells is a world leader in the production of catalysed components for fuel cells. The business is headquartered at Lydiard Fields in Swindon where it employs over 100 people. It also has access to a global network of technology centres and sales offices around the world.

The manufacturing facility in Swindon was opened in 2002 and was the world's first dedicated production facility for membrane electrode assemblies (MEAs). MEAs are the key component at the heart of Proton Exchange Membrane (PEM) fuel cells, the leading technology behind hydrogen powered transport, portable and residential fuel cells.

In principle, fuel cells could be used to power any device that requires electrical energy to function. The Swindon facility is meeting the first commercial applications of fuel cells which range from small battery chargers to systems that can meet the heat and power needs of a supermarket or office building. Johnson Matthey is also working to support the global automotive industry's programmes to launch commercial fuel cell vehicles.

Johnson Matthey Fuel Cells is a subsidiary of Johnson Matthey Plc, a UK headquartered FTSE 100 speciality chemicals company. Johnson Matthey is a world leader in environmental technologies. Its products reduce emissions, improve efficiencies and address pressing environmental and social concerns in their own right or in the way they are used by customers.

Further Information

For further general background information on fuel cells please visit:

www.fuelcellsuk.org

www.fuelcelltoday.com