

NEWS from The Savannah River Site



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RESEARCHERS AND POLICY-MAKERS TO DISCUSS “HYDROGEN STORAGE: GATEWAY TO ENERGY SECURITY”

AIKEN, S.C. (Feb. 20, 2002) – The Savannah River Technology Center is bringing together the nation’s leading researchers in the field of hydrogen technology to discuss some of the most important issues in making the “hydrogen economy” a reality. These researchers, including representatives from the national laboratories, universities and industry, will meet, along with representatives from the U.S. Department of Energy and others, for a three-day workshop entitled: “Hydrogen Storage: Gateway to Energy Security” at Hilton Head Island, Feb. 27-March 1.

The workshop’s opening session on Wednesday, Feb. 27, will focus on key issues, including

- the national perspective on energy security and the need for hydrogen energy
- DOE hydrogen programs, including FreedomCAR, announced by the Secretary of Energy in January
- the auto industry perspective on hydrogen
- background and status of hydrogen storage technologies

Dr. Richard Moorer, DOE Associate Deputy Assistant Secretary for Transportation Technology, will be one of the speakers for the opening session, along with Dr. George Thomas of Sandia National Laboratory and a representative from the automotive industry.

Following the opening session will be technical sessions in which participants explore the current status of the major hydrogen storage technologies, and identify critical issues and needs for future research and development. The workshop will close with the development of recommendations for a path forward.

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HYDROGEN STORAGE WORKSHOP

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With last month's announcement of the FreedomCAR program (a cooperative initiative between DOE and the auto industry to promote development of hydrogen as a fuel for cars and trucks), awareness of hydrogen's potential as an energy source has grown tremendously.

Hydrogen – abundant, clean and environmentally friendly – is the fuel of the future. Its use as a fuel will bring vast environmental benefits, as well as reducing dependence on imported oil.

Chief among the issues that must be addressed to make hydrogen-fueled vehicles possible, however, is the question of hydrogen storage. An economically viable hydrogen storage technology is necessary to make the goals of the FreedomCAR program possible. Participants at this workshop will explore and evaluate the state-of-the-art of hydrogen storage technologies, the future potential for each technology and major development issues before making recommendations for a path forward.

The overall agenda for the workshop is:

Hydrogen Storage: Gateway to Energy Security

Hilton Oceanfront Resort, Hilton Head, South Carolina

Tuesday, February 26, 2002

6 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. Reception and Early Registration (Hosted by National Hydrogen Association)

Wednesday, February 27, 2002

7:30 – 8 a.m. Registration and Continental Breakfast

8 a.m. – 12 noon Opening Session

12 noon – 1 p.m. LUNCH

1 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. Technical Session I -- Compressed Gas and Liquid Hydrogen Storage

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Thursday, February 28, 2002

- 7:30 a.m. – 8 a.m.** **Registration and Continental Breakfast**
- 8 a.m. – 12 noon** **Technical Session II -- Metal Hydride Storage**
- 12 noon – 1 p.m.** **LUNCH**
- 1 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.** **Technical Session III – Advanced Hydrogen Storage
(including chemical hydrogen storage and hydrogen storage
on carbon)**
- 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.** **Banquet**

Friday, March 1, 2002

- 7:30 a.m. – 8 a.m.** **Registration and Continental Breakfast**
- 8 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.** **Closing Session**
Small Group Reports
DOE Hydrogen Programs Comments
Panel Discussion (All Presenters)
Path forward and Recommendations
- 11:30 a.m.** **Workshop Adjournment**

News media wishing to attend all or part of the workshop should contact Angeline Fitzgerald at (803) 725-9792 or e-mail angeline.fitzgerald@srs.gov.

The Savannah River Technology Center is the applied research and development laboratory at the Department of Energy's Savannah River Site. For over 40 years, SRTC researchers have been studying hydrogen technology in connection with SRS' national defense mission. In recent years, the laboratory has also been collaborating with academia and industry to transfer that expertise – particularly their expertise in hydrogen storage technology – for transportation and other non-defense applications.

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