

Visegrad countries will cooperate in hydrogen technologies

Prague, 10th December 2014 – Czech Republic, Poland, Slovakia, Hungary and other Central European countries have started a cooperation focused on hydrogen technologies with the aim to catch up with Western Europe in this promising field of power engineering. The project initiated by Czech Hydrogen Technology Platform (HYTEP) will be wrapped up by international conference Hydrogen Days this spring.

Energy storage and conversion is one of the most frequently discussed problems connected with development of renewable energy. Hydrogen technologies seem to be a promising solution and receive growing support in Europe – from the European Commission and national governments as well as from the major players in energy and automotive industry.

„We have seen a number of successful results in experimental research and development of functional devices for energy storage in the Czech Republic, Poland and other Central European countries, for example using the method of high-temperature electrolysis. Since early 1990s we have also managed to reduce the gap between us and Western Europe. But our region still lacks strategic approach to the promising field of hydrogen technologies from government and industry. And without a systematic support we may miss the ongoing modernization of the entire energy sector in Europe,“ says Aleš Doucek, vice chairman of HYTEP.

Therefore Czech Hydrogen Technology Platform (HYTEP) initiated cooperation between the four Visegrad countries also joined by Romania. What brings those countries together is the missing complex strategy for using renewable sources of energy.

"Hydrogen technologies and fuel cells help to solve two problems related to renewable energy - energy storage and stabilization of the grid. At European level, the approach to these issues is clearly defined by strategic documents of Fuel Cell and Hydrogen Joint Undertaking (FCH JU), which brings together the European Commission, research institutions and industry representatives. It is essential that our governments, enterprises and institutions relate to those documents, "says prof. Karel Bouzek and adds that the FCH JU also provides significant funding for applied research and development.

The participants in the project "Strengthening competencies in Hydrogen Technologies in V4" are HYTEP, Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava, Hungarian Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Association, Polish Institute of Power Engineering and Romanian National Research and Development Institute for Cryogenics and Isotopic Technologies ICIT Rm. Valcea.

The project will culminate with an international conference Hydrogen Days in April 2016 (www.hydrogendays.cz/2016) under the auspices of Czech ministers of Trade and Industry; Education; Environment; Deputy Prime Minister for Science, Research and Innovation and others. Besides the countries involved in the project, the attendance of participants from Bulgaria and Slovenia as well as leading experts from Germany, France or Great Britain is expected.

About HYTEP

Czech Hydrogen Technology Platform (HYTEP) brings together the most important subjects in the Czech Republic engaged in the development of hydrogen technologies and their utilization in practice. Its aim is to promote and coordinate further research, working closely with partners in the European Union and elsewhere. Universities, research institutions and industry representatives are among its members. www.hytep.cz

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www.visegradfund.org