



HYDROGEN IMPLEMENTING AGREEMENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The International Energy Agency Hydrogen Implementing Agreement (IEA HIA) selects two winners of the inaugural IEA HIA Project Prize for Technology Demonstration and Fundamental Research.

April 26, 2010 – Washington, D.C.

The International Energy Agency Hydrogen Implementing Agreement (IEA HIA) is pleased to announce the selection of winners of the inaugural IEA HIA Project Prize in two categories: Technology Demonstration and Fundamental Research. For Technology Demonstration, the winner is ITHÉR (*Infraestructura Tecnológica del Hidrógeno y Energías Renovables*). Also titled “Green Hydrogen from Wind and Solar Mobile Applications,” ITHÉR is a project of IEA HIA Task 24 – Wind Energy and Hydrogen Integration. For Fundamental Research, the winner is “Fundamental Safety Testing and Analysis of Hydrogen Storage Materials and Systems” (H-25), a project of IEA HIA Task 22 – Fundamental and Applied Hydrogen Storage Materials Development. The IEA HIA Prize was created in 2008 to recognize excellence in R,D&D and harmony in international cooperation that contributes to the advancement of basic and applied hydrogen science. The Prize will be formally presented to the winners during a ceremony at the World Hydrogen Energy Conference (WHEC 2010) in Essen, Germany in May.

The **Technology Demonstration winner, ITHÉR, or “Green Hydrogen from Wind and Solar Mobile Applications,”** was created by the Fundación para el Desarrollo de Nuevas Tecnologías del Hidrógeno en Aragón (Foundation for the Development of New Hydrogen Technologies in Aragón). ITHÉR showcases technology infrastructure for hydrogen and renewable energies in an integrated wind energy and hydrogen demonstration – complete with testing and training facility for photovoltaics. The system features hydrogen production by PEM and alkaline electrolysers, hydrogen storage (low and high pressure), fuel cells and an energy management system. **As a project of IEA HIA Task 24, ITHÉR supports the full range of issues – technical, economic, social, environmental and legal – related to hydrogen production using electrolysis with wind energy, including load balancing of the grid.** “Consequently,” notes IEA HIA Chairman Antonio G. García-Conde, “the ITHÉR Project serves as a replicable model for a fully integrated wind and hydrogen facility.”

The Fundamental Research winner, “Fundamental Safety Testing and Analysis of Hydrogen Storage Materials and Systems” (Task 22 H-25), is a collaboration among four IEA HIA member countries – Canada, Germany, Japan and the USA. **The project’s goals are to improve hydrogen storage systems with respect to safety, and to test and evaluate the safety of materials used for hydrogen storage.** The project addresses risk assessment, thermodynamics and chemical kinetics of materials, as well as risk mitigation and prototype systems. Significant project outcomes include development of a testing procedure methodology for hydrogen storage materials, actual safety-related testing of novel materials, and knowledge-sharing among Task 22 Experts. Chairman Garcia-Conde explains, “The information developed by this project is crucial to the understanding of safety in solid materials for hydrogen storage. The IEA HIA believes that comfort with hydrogen is very important to the public, so H-25 represents a critical step in the development and introduction of hydrogen storage materials and systems.”

From IEA HIA Executive Committee Chairman Antonio G. García-Conde:

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For more information about the **IEA HIA Project Prize**, please see [IEA HIA News](#).

For more information about the **IEA HIA**, go to www.ieahia.org or contact Mary-Rose de Valladares, IEA HIA Manager at mvalladares@ieahia.org; or +1 301 634 7423.