

## Media Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **International Energy Agency Hydrogen Implementing Agreement (IEA HIA) awards IEA HIA Individual Prize to Dr. James M. Ohi for coordinating global development and harmonization of codes and standards that advance the safe use and market deployment of hydrogen and fuel cell technologies**

31 May 2011 Washington, D.C.

The International Energy Agency Hydrogen Implementing Agreement (IEA HIA) ([www.ieahia.org](http://www.ieahia.org)) awarded its 2011 Individual Prize to Dr. James M. Ohi for his vision and leadership in coordinating global development and harmonization of codes and standards that advance the safe use and market deployment of hydrogen and fuel cell technologies. Mr. Nick Beck, former IEA HIA Chair and Director of Transportation Energy Technology at Natural Resources Canada, and Mary-Rose de Valladares, IEA HIA Secretariat Manager, presented the award on May 17 during the Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Conference 2011 in Vancouver, Canada. This is the second award of the IEA HIA Individual Prize, which is conferred for *R&D characterized by technical excellence and harmony in international cooperation that contributes to the understanding and advancement of basic and applied hydrogen science*. In bestowing the award, Mr. Beck underscored "...the crucial nature of Dr. Ohi's achievements in hydrogen safety, codes and standards, an area where all of us are stakeholders."

Dr. James M. Ohi, a consultant to the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and formerly a Senior Project Leader at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL), championed a coordinated R&D focus on the codes and standards development process that ensures a robust technical and scientific foundation for hydrogen and fuel cell codes and standards. His vision of building an enduring international collaborative effort to overcome technical and institutional challenges in this process has positively influenced codes and standards activities, as well as regulatory practices, worldwide.

For DOE, Dr. Ohi conceived and facilitated implementation of a national hydrogen and fuel cell codes and standards program. His foresight and management of this venture led to the coordinated efforts of codes and standards development organizations (SDOs) in the U.S. These efforts culminated in the design and implementation of a National Template - a working structure that allows for coordinated development of hydrogen specific codes and standards in the U.S. Among other activities, he also coordinated a North American team of experts in the development of a draft international standard for hydrogen fuel quality for PEM fuel cells in road vehicles (ISO DIS14687-2). Dr. Ohi has worked with experts around the world -- including experts from the European Union,

Canada, Japan, China, India and Brazil -- on hydrogen and fuel cell safety, codes and standards. He has authored numerous publications on codes and standards development and coordination.

A longtime contributor to IEA HIA safety efforts, Dr. Ohi first served as an American expert in IEA HIA Task 19 - Hydrogen Safety, and is now participating in its successor, Task 31. These IEA HIA tasks are laying the R&D groundwork for hydrogen codes and standards and consumer comfort with hydrogen technologies on a global basis.

Reflecting on award of the IEA HIA Individual Prize, IEA HIA Chairman Antonio García-Conde of Madrid, Spain observed that "By personal example and leadership, Dr. Ohi has not only effectively advanced the technical portfolios of hydrogen safety, codes and standards that are essential to commercialization of hydrogen energy technologies; he has also powerfully promoted the value and practice of collaboration, which is the basis for all IEA HIA activities."

The IEA HIA is the world's largest and longest-lived R,D&D collaboration in hydrogen. Over the course of 30+ years, the IEA HIA has originated and managed a comprehensive portfolio of 31 hydrogen R,D&D and analysis tasks. Today, the collaboration has 23 members: 21 countries, the Commission of the European Union and the United National Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO). Both its portfolio and its membership continue to grow. The IEA HIA is a premier global resource for expertise in hydrogen R,D&D.

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

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Dr. James M. Ohi

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