

## Press Release

### **"f-cell": The fuel cell is part of electromobility**

**"In future, there will be various drive and energy technologies at the same time," is what the experts predict. "The fuel cell is one of these." During this year's "f-cell" ([www.f-cell.de](http://www.f-cell.de)) congress and trade fair for producers and users of the fuel cell on September 28 and 29 in Stuttgart, automobile manufacturers will underscore the significance of local emissions-free fuel cell technology for vehicles.**

Stuttgart (eos) – The German government recently initiated a national development plan for electromobility: the sum of 500 million euro is to flow into the development of battery-driven vehicles and the necessary infrastructure, i.e. power filling stations. Is this a rejection of the fuel cell? Are electric cars to fill up with electricity from the outset and store it in a battery instead of filling up with hydrogen that fuel cells convert into electricity on board? During the fuel cell specialist forum "f-cell" on September 28 and 29 in Stuttgart, automobile manufacturers will provide unambiguous answers: "There is no either-or," says Dr. Jörg Wind, responsible for electric vehicle research and hydrogen projects at Daimler in Kirchheim/Teck near Stuttgart. His company supports the "f-cell", an international event organized by the Peter Sauber Agentur Messen und Kongresse as well as the Wirtschaftsförderung Region Stuttgart GmbH (economic promotion agency, WRS), and is committed to the fuel cell. "Vehicles driven purely by battery electricity have a problem with range, and this problem will persist. They are ideal for urban traffic, but we need the fuel cell for emission-free driving over longer distances." Daimler recently demonstrated how far the technology has advanced by producing the B-Class F-CELL fuel cell passenger car under series production conditions.

### **Electric and fuel cell projects at one stop**

The German government also clearly indicates that it is not a matter of promoting competition between vehicles driven purely with a battery-driven and fuel cell passenger cars – which, by the way, also have a battery to store energy and therefore profit from ongoing developments in this

field. The government placed the implementation and coordination of the national development plan for electromobility, with its centerpiece, the electromobility model regions, in the hands of the National Organization for Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Technology (NOW), which is already responsible for implementation of the National Innovation Program for Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Technology (NIP). By the way, one of the model regions for electromobility – alongside seven others – is the Stuttgart region. The "f-cell" event co-organizer WRS coordinates the planned projects.

### **Various fuel and drive technologies side by side**

"The promotion of future, alternative fuel, drive, and energy technologies is a holistic task," explains Dr. Klaus Bonhoff, CEO of NOW, who will also give a lecture during the "f-cell". "In future, various fuel and drive technologies will be placed side by side: Both fuel cells and batteries are key technologies here." This appraisal is also reflected in Daimler's concept. "The mobility of tomorrow will not be supported by a single solution," says Dr. Thomas Weber, responsible in the Daimler board of directors for group research and the development of Mercedes-Benz cars. "The key to mobility in automobiles that is environmentally compatible and in line with requirements is a mix of drives consisting of internal combustion engines, hybrids, as well as battery and fuel cell drives."

### **Wide range of lectures and trade fair diversity**

Alongside the mobile applications, the speakers at "f-cell" will also cover the topics of stationary and portable use of the technology, with individual components, scientific innovations as well as market opportunities and strategies. Those who are interested will find the complete "f-cell" program and a current list of "f-cell" exhibitors on the internet at [www.f-cell.de](http://www.f-cell.de) or can obtain information from the Peter Sauber Agentur Messen und Kongresse (telephone 0711-656960-51, Sibel Kadioglu).

Stuttgart, September 21, 2009

Photo: Cutaway model of B-Class F-CELL

"The key to mobility in automobiles that is environmentally compatible and in line with requirements is a mix of drives consisting of internal combustion engines, hybrids, as well as battery and fuel cell drives," says Dr. Thomas Weber, member of the board of directors at Daimler. During this year's fuel cell forum "f-cell" on September 28 and 29 in Stuttgart, the company will be showing a cutaway



Wirtschaftsförderung  
Region Stuttgart



model of the new B-Class F-CELL fuel cell passenger car which is produced under series production conditions, thus underscoring its commitment to fuel cell vehicles.

Photo: Daimler



During the international fuel cell specialist forum "f-cell" on September 28 and 29 in Stuttgart, Dr. Klaus Bonhoff, CEO of the National Organization for Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Technology (NOW), which in the meantime is also responsible for implementation of the development plan for electromobility, will emphasize that the environmentally compatible mobility of tomorrow needs both batteries and fuel cells in equal measure.

Photo: Peter Sauber Agency / Fabry

More information and pictures are available from:

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