



## News Release

Brussels, 16 January 2013

### **The Fuel Cells and Hydrogen Joint Undertaking (FCH JU) devotes EUR 68, 5 Million this year to accelerate the market entry of fuel cells and hydrogen technologies**

*The FCH JU public private partnership published its sixth annual call for proposals yesterday, offering more than € Million 130 to support research and demonstration activities in these innovative and clean energy technologies. With € 68, 5 million from its own budget, to be matched by in-kind contributions from industry, research organisations and possibly national funds, the FCH JU confirms its dedication to deliver the market entry of fuel cells and hydrogen technologies. Acknowledging the contribution of these technologies to decarbonizing transport and energy systems, the efficient use and storage of energy and renewables, as well as the general increase of energy security, the sector has grown substantially over the past years. Although it has created jobs in Europe, it still faces fierce competition from the US and Asia (Japan Korea and China), as illustrated by a recent FCH JU survey.*

Welcoming the launch of this sixth and last call under the FP7 programme, Bert De Colvenaer, Executive Director of the FCH Joint Undertaking, underlines: *"The 2013 call intends to widen real life demonstration activities to further prepare for the fuel cell systems wide market entry. In this respect we expect to see, through challenging R&D projects, increased technology maturity combined with improved cost-competitiveness still able to meet customers' operational requirements in terms of reliability, lifetime and efficiency. With the light structure of our public private partnership, we are able to manage 131 projects in parallel, resulting from the 5 previous calls for proposals. Our main ambition is to see the further strengthening of our beneficiaries' cooperation and a European-wide commitment at national level."*

The Chairman of the Governing Board and the Industry Grouping of the Joint Undertaking, Pierre-Etienne Franc, adds: *"This call is the sixth being launched by this EU-wide public private partnership, which has already invested nearly € 1 billion towards the deployment of FCH technologies since its creation in 2008. 70% of the funding is dedicated to transport & refuelling infrastructure and stationary applications, confirming the leverage of cars, buses, light duty and material handling vehicles, as well as stationary power fuel cells and CHP systems- now technology ready- for the whole sector. A renewed commitment from industry and public authorities, under Horizon 2020 is now vital in order to prepare deployment and leverage private investment."*

The 27 project topics from this call are split between 5 application areas:

- Transportation and refuelling infrastructure (Million € 23);
- Hydrogen production and distribution (Million € 7,5 million);
- Stationary power generation and combined heat and power (Million € 24);
- Early markets, covering portable, micro applications or handling vehicles (Million € 9);
- Cross-cutting issues, such as socio-economic research, social acceptance, training (€ 5 million)

The deadline for submission of proposals is **22 May 2012**. Evaluation of proposals will be carried out in June 2013 and projects selected for contract negotiations should already be announced by the autumn.

### **For more information**

A Public Information Session and Brokerage event 2013 will take place on **14 February 2013** in the premises of the FCH JU Programme Office, in Brussels.

The Public Information Session on this call will cover the topics of this year's call, processes, rules for submission of proposals as well as other useful information for participants.

A brokerage event, co-organised by the Industry Grouping (NEW-IG) and the Research Grouping (N.ERGHY) of the FCH Joint Undertaking will follow with a view to support consortium build-up for projects proposals. Sessions will be organised by application areas and topics in order to facilitate concrete discussions and targeted networking.

To get more information and register for the event, please contact the Industry grouping (secretariat@new-ig.eu) or the Research Grouping (antonina.maiboroda@dlr.de).

### **Background**

As the first public-private instrument established on 14 October 2008 under the European Strategic Energy Technology Plan (SET-Plan) and autonomous since November 2010 with a ring-fenced budget of nearly one € billion between 2008 and 2013, the FCH JU brings public and private interests across Europe together, with the aim of speeding up the development of fuel cells and hydrogen technologies in Europe in order to enable their commercial deployment between 2010 and 2020.

Current membership includes the European Commission and some 50 companies, from multinationals to SMEs represented by the Industry Grouping (NEW-IG), as well as over 60 universities and research institutes, represented by the Research Grouping (N.ERGHY) engaging more than 2000 researchers in the field of fuel cells and hydrogen.

### **Call information and relevant documentation:**

<http://www.fch-ju.eu/content/launch-fch-ju-2013-call-proposals>

[http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/page/call\\_FP7?callIdentifier=FCH-JU-2013-1&specificProgram=COOPERATION#wlp\\_call\\_FP7](http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/page/call_FP7?callIdentifier=FCH-JU-2013-1&specificProgram=COOPERATION#wlp_call_FP7)

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