PRESS RELEASE

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Fuel Cells and Hydrogen 2 Joint Undertaking (FCH 2 JU) under Horizon 2020: launch of activities and first calls.

FCH 2 JU, established under the EU's new research funding programme Horizon 2020, is being launched today together with other six public-private partnerships.

Fuel Cells and Hydrogen 2 Joint Undertaking

The second generation of the FCH JU aims to accelerate the commercial deployment of hydrogen-based energy and transport solutions across Europe through a total investment of €1.33 billion. The projects under FCH 2 will improve performance and reduce the cost of products as well as demonstrate on a large scale the readiness of the technology to enter the market in the fields of transport (cars, buses and refuelling infrastructure) and energy (hydrogen production and distribution, energy storage and stationary power generation).

With an indicative budget of €93 million from Horizon 2020, the 2014 call for proposals will support 22 topics covering a broad range of applications. For example, one of the projects in this call aims to accelerate the deployment of fuel cells and hydrogen based mobility in Europe by rolling out at least 100 vehicles and 23 hydrogen refuelling stations.

Máire Geoghegan-Quinn, European Commissioner for Research, Innovation and Science, said: *"The current FCH partnership has already put zero emission vehicles on the streets of a number of European cities, and installed heat and power units in people's homes. The new programme will continue to deliver cleaner and affordable solutions for energy and transport. These are technologies that will not only reduce our CO2 footprint, but also reduce our energy dependence."*

Henri Winand, Treasurer of NEW-IG, Member of the Governing Board of the FCH 2 JU and CEO of Intelligent Energy, said: *"Fuel cells and hydrogen can help Europe address some of its biggest challenges: cut carbon dioxide emissions, deliver on the need of large scale energy storage, reduce dependence on fossil fuels and create jobs and growth. Now, our objective is to unleash this great potential. This important investment and new money will facilitate the entry of fuel cell and hydrogen into the market and for fuel cell and hydrogen based products and services to become an everyday reality sooner rather than later."*

Launch of 7 Joint Undertakings

They represent a total investment of €19.5 billion into research and innovation over the next seven years, where the EU contribution of €7.3 billion will unlock a €12.2 billion investment from the private sector and the Member States. Together with four more public- public partnerships with member States, they form an Innovative Investment Package representing an investment into Europe's future of over €22 billion

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