

## Hydrogen technicians to be trained in Aberdeen through City Council and NESCOL partnership

17 May 2017

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An accredited course for fuel cell and hydrogen technicians in Aberdeen is being developed as part of the city's position as a hydrogen technologies hub.

Aberdeen City Council is working with North East of Scotland College (NESCOL) and EU partners to build on the city's reputation as part of the Energy Capital of Europe with the new course.

The city has invested in infrastructure and transport and it now has two hydrogen refuelling stations, along with a fleet of 10 buses and 18 cars and vans, with further expansion of the fleet planned.

The course is to be shaped over the next year as part of the EU-wide FCH Train project, which has a meeting in Aberdeen today (17 May) and tomorrow (Thursday 18 May), and the course will be available after completion of the project.

An Aberdeen City Council spokeswoman said: "It is fantastic that we are going to be working with NESCOL and the other partners to develop an accredited course for fuel cell and hydrogen technicians as it supports the work we have already carried out in the city pioneering hydrogen as a viable fuel.

"We look forward to working with NESCOL and the other partners on this exciting new chapter in the city's hydrogen story."

A NESCOL spokeswoman said: "The College is delighted to be part of this project and we look forward to discussing our potential involvement over the next few days."

The training programme on hydrogen powered fuel cell vehicles is being designed by a project collaboration across Europe. There has been an increasing demand for skilled labour in hydrogen vehicle technology but there has also been a lack of education and training programs.

The training programme will be accredited and implemented in the public educational system in Denmark and Scotland, the first EU countries to offer education in fuel cells and hydrogen vehicles. The courses will be open for both national and international students.

The FCH Train project will gather experience from Denmark, Belgium and Scotland as each has an area of excellence in fuel cell and hydrogen technology and convert it in to a new training and education program for technicians of hydrogen vehicles including cars, busses and trucks.

Knowledge and experiences gained will be shared among the European partners to create the training programme, which to be developed by a project consortium consisting of Aberdeen City Council, Ballard Power Systems Europe, Mercantec, Hydrogen Valley, and Van Hool.

The new training programme will firstly be tested in Denmark at the Auto Technical Center (ATC), which is part of the vocational and education and training (VET) school, Mercantec in Viborg.

The project is funded by the Erasmus+ programme of the European Union.

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Notes to editors:

The EU has made a commitment to a forward-looking climate policy with energy security and independence as some of the prioritized dimensions. Clean and energy efficient vehicles have an important role to play in achieving EU policy objectives of reducing energy consumption, CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, and pollutant emissions. Hydrogen power fuel cell vehicles are seen as key enablers as they are highly-efficient, emits no CO<sub>2</sub> and can be powered by hydrogen produced from renewable energy such as wind energy. The partners in the project are:

**Ballard Power Systems Europe:** fuel cell integrator company located in Denmark owned by Ballard Power System Inc. Canada, who is a leader in research, development, manufacturing, sales and servicing of PEM fuel cells.

**Mercantec:** one of the largest vocational education and training colleges in Denmark with more than 40 different educations, including the ATC, which provides technical training for mechanics and the automotive aftermarket.

**Hydrogen Valley/CEMTEC:** non-profit organisation acting as a driver in the hydrogen industry. Hydrogen Valley/CEMTEC assists in projects and activities which establish how green gasses (hydrogen and biogas) can advance a green transition of the energy system.

**Van Hool:** independent Belgian manufacturer of buses, touring coaches and industrial vehicles. Van Hool is also world's leading manufacturer of fuel cell busses.

**Aberdeen City Council:** Scottish local authority, which aims to become a leading European region in the early deployment of hydrogen fuel cell vehicles, as well as becoming hub for hydrogen technologies in Scotland.

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