



International Leadership in Hydrogen Technology Enters New Phase

December 2009 – The International Partnership for the Hydrogen Economy (IPHE) announced a name change for the Partnership and the election of Germany as the new Chair at its meeting in Washington, D.C., Dec. 1-3, 2009. Germany takes over from Canada which held the position for a two-year term.

"Germany very much appreciates the confidence of the IPHE members in electing us as Chair," said Dr. Peter Ramsauer, German Federal Minister of Transport, Building and Urban Development. "Our gratitude and thanks go to our Canadian colleagues, who have done an excellent job over the last two years. The IPHE has continuously broadened its scope and activities, moderating the development of technology options and infrastructure as well as supporting policies, regulations and frameworks. Our goal will be to support the continuity of successful work and the adaptation of the Partnership to future responsibilities and challenges."

Members of the IPHE agreed to change the name of the organization to the International Partnership for Hydrogen and Fuel Cells in the Economy (IPHE). The name change takes effect immediately. The membership agreed the change better reflects the goals of the Partnership, and recognizes the emerging role of hydrogen as one of a growing suite of viable options available today to help decarbonize global energy systems.

The IPHE also released a communiqué on international efforts to commercialize hydrogen and fuel cell technologies. [The Communiqué](#) outlines a suite of measures that should be pursued in order to further capitalize on the energy security and emissions reductions benefits that hydrogen and fuel cells now offer.

The measures outlined in the Communiqué are increasingly recognized as the foundation of programs and initiatives within IPHE member countries.

“There is no doubt that we need to encourage the market for new technologies in the transport sector as well as for heating and powering our homes,” said Dr. Ramsauer. “We have to live up to our responsibility for tackling climate change and ensuring energy security. Hydrogen and Fuel Cell technology is an important milestone on this road.”

The IPHE was established in 2003 as an international partnership to accelerate the transition to a hydrogen economy. It provides a mechanism for partners to organize, coordinate and implement effective, efficient and focused international research, development, demonstration and commercial utilization activities related to hydrogen and fuel cell technologies.

The IPHE Communiqué can be found at www.iphe.net.