



International Partnership  
for Hydrogen and Fuel Cells  
in the Economy

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR  
  
THE INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIP FOR  
HYDROGEN AND FUEL CELLS IN THE ECONOMY

As per Decision by the IPHE Steering Committee on 15 May 2023  
(New Members: Belgium, Singapore)

The undersigned national government entities (collectively the “Partners”) set forth the following Terms of Reference for the International Partnership for Hydrogen and Fuel Cells in the Economy (IPHE), a framework supporting agile, productive international cooperation in the production, delivery, storage, and utilization of hydrogen.

1. Purposes of the IPHE

To serve as a mechanism to organize and implement effective, efficient, and focused international research, development, demonstration and commercial utilization activities related to hydrogen and fuel cell technologies. It also provides a forum for advancing policies, and common codes and standards that can accelerate the cost-effective transition to a global hydrogen economy to enhance energy security and environmental protection.

2. Functions of the IPHE

The IPHE will seek to:

- 2.1 Identify and promote potential areas of bilateral and multilateral collaboration on hydrogen and fuel cell technologies;

- 2.2 Analyze and recommend priorities for research, development, demonstration, and commercial utilization of hydrogen technologies and equipment;
  - 2.3 Analyze and develop policy recommendations on technical guidance, including common codes, standards and regulations, to advance hydrogen and fuel cell technology development, demonstration and commercial use;
  - 2.4 Foster implementation of large-scale, long-term public-private cooperation to advance hydrogen and fuel cell technology and infrastructure research, development, demonstration and commercial use, in accordance with Partners' priorities;
  - 2.5 Coordinate and leverage resources to advance bilateral and multilateral cooperation in hydrogen and fuel cell technology research, development, demonstration and commercial utilization;
  - 2.6 Address emerging technical, financial, legal, market, socioeconomic, environmental, and policy issues and opportunities related to hydrogen and fuel cell technology that are not currently being addressed elsewhere.
3. Organization of the IPHE
- 3.1 A Steering Committee will be formed.
  - 3.2 The Steering Committee will govern the overall framework, policies and procedures of the IPHE, periodically review the program of collaborative activities, including a review of the organizational structure if necessary, and provide direction to the Secretariat. The Committee will also review the progress of collaborative projects; identify promising directions for research, development, demonstration, and commercial use; provide technical assessments for policy decisions, and pursue international codes and standards and safety protocols. The Committee should meet at least once a year, at times and places to be determined by its appointed representatives. Decisions of the Committee will be made by consensus of its appointed representatives.
  - 3.3 Appendix A lists the IPHE partners. Appendix A may be amended by consensus of the Steering Committee.
  - 3.4 Unless otherwise determined by consensus of the Partners, each Partner may make up to two appointments to the Steering Committee.
  - 3.5 Other experts may attend the Steering Committee meetings as deemed necessary by the appointed representatives.

- 3.6 The Steering Committee has the authority to form appropriate Task Forces, Work Groups, and any other subgroups it determines are needed to assist its work. These subgroups are not permanent Partnership structures, existing only as long as is needed to achieve their objectives. The Steering Committee will decide when to establish and disband a subgroup.
- 3.7 The IPHE will coordinate its activities with the International Energy Agency, the hydrogen efforts of which are an important complement to the IPHE and which the IPHE views as a valuable institution in the transition to the hydrogen economy. The IPHE will seek to avoid duplication with ongoing activities in international organizations.
- 3.8 The principal coordinator of the IPHE's communications and activities will be the IPHE Secretariat. The Secretariat will: (1) organize the meetings of the IPHE and its committees, (2) arrange special activities such as teleconferences and workshops, (3) receive and forward new membership requests to the Steering Committee, (4) coordinate communications with regard to IPHE activities and their status, (5) act as a clearinghouse of information for the IPHE, (6) maintain procedures and responsibilities for key functions that are approved by the Steering Committee, and (7) perform such other tasks as the Steering Committee directs. The focus of the Secretariat will be administrative.
- 3.9 In order to ensure the sustainability and consistency of the IPHE activities, a dedicated Secretariat Office will be established. The IPHE Secretariat will be hosted at the World Trade Centers Association (WTCA). The Secretariat will be open for participation to all Partners of the IPHE. It will report to, and receive its guidance from, the Steering Committee.
- 3.10 The Secretariat may, as required, use the services of personnel employed by the Partners and made available to the Secretariat. Unless otherwise determined by the Partners, such personnel will be remunerated by their respective employers and will remain subject to their employers' conditions of employment.
- 3.11 The U.S.<sup>1</sup> served as IPHE Chair and Secretariat for its first four years, followed by Canada<sup>2</sup>, Germany<sup>3</sup>, and Japan<sup>4</sup>. Recent Chairs are France<sup>5</sup>, the U.S.<sup>1</sup>, The Netherlands<sup>6</sup> and now South Africa with support from the IPHE Secretariat.
- 3.12 Each Partner will individually determine the nature of its participation in the IPHE activities.

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<sup>1</sup> U.S Department of Energy (4 years, 3 years)

<sup>2</sup> Natural Resources Canada and Industry Canada (2 years)

<sup>3</sup> National Organization for Hydrogen and Fuel Cells (NOW) (4 years)

<sup>4</sup> New Energy and Industrial Technology Development Organization (NEDO), with support from Germany's NOW for one year (2 years)

<sup>5</sup> Atomic Energy and Alternative Energies Commission (CEA) (3 years)

<sup>6</sup> Ministry for Climate and Energy Policy (2 years)

#### 4. Membership

- 4.1 These Terms of Reference, which are administrative in nature, do not create any legally binding obligations between or among its Partners. Each Partner will conduct the activities contemplated by these Terms of Reference in accordance with the laws under which it operates and the international instruments to which it is a party.
- 4.2 The Steering Committee may invite new national government entities to become Partners of the IPHE if the Steering Committee determines the applicant has demonstrated:
- 1) A substantial, long-term resource commitment to hydrogen and fuel cell technology research and development activities;
  - 2) A well-defined vision and national strategy to advance technology deployment and infrastructure development; and
  - 3) A commitment reflected in policies and strategies that effectively advance private sector development of hydrogen and fuel cells in the economy.
- 4.3 Membership in the IPHE will be contingent upon the acceptance of the IPHE Terms of Reference and active participation in IPHE activities. If a member has not participated for more than 2 consecutive years at the time of a Steering Committee meeting, their Membership can be terminated by majority vote of the Steering Committee. This vote may take place either at the Steering Committee meeting, or virtually following the Steering Committee before the decisions, actions and minutes of that meeting are approved. The inactive period may apply retrospectively. If a member has been terminated, they have the option to re-apply for Membership consideration in the future as per any new country seeking to join the IPHE.
- 4.4 Technical and other experts from within and external to IPHE Partner organizations may participate in activities conducted under the auspices of the IPHE, unless otherwise determined by the Partners.

#### 5. Funding

- 5.1 Unless otherwise determined by the Partners, any costs arising from the activities contemplated by these Terms of Reference will be borne by the Partner that incurs them. Each Partner's participation in IPHE activities is subject to the availability of funds, personnel and other resources.
- 5.2 The Secretariat Office is supported by voluntary contributions (financial or in-kind) of all Members. Members typically contribute \$10,000 to \$50,000 per year based on their Gross Domestic Product and investments in fuel cell and hydrogen initiatives. For members with minimal cash contributions (e.g., \$10,000), in-kind contributions are encouraged such as providing staff resources on working groups, task forces, and Secretariat support. This arrangement will be reviewed at two-year intervals. (Note: the IPHE Secretariat Office operations initiated 1 July 2015.)

## 6. Intellectual Property

- 6.1 To the extent practicable, the research and development fostered by IPHE should be open.
- 6.2 The protection and allocation of intellectual property, and the treatment of proprietary information arising from research and development collaborations fostered by the IPHE, will be defined by specific implementing arrangement(s).

## 7. Commencement, Extension, Modification, Withdrawal, and Termination

### 7.1 Commencement, Modification and Termination

7.1.1 These Terms of Reference commenced on November 20, 2003 for a ten-year term and will continue until 19 November 2023 unless extended or terminated by the Steering Committee. The Steering Committee will conduct a review of these Terms of Reference every 5 years to confirm member interest in the continuation of the Partnership.

7.1.2 These Terms of Reference may be modified or terminated in writing at any time by consensus of the Steering Committee.

### 7.2 Extension and Withdrawal

7.2.1 By written arrangement, the Steering Committee may extend these Terms of Reference for additional periods.

7.2.2 A Partner may withdraw from membership in the IPHE by giving written notice to the other Partners 90 days prior to its anticipated withdrawal.

## Appendix A

IPHE Partners: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Costa Rica, France, Germany, Iceland, India, Italy, Japan, Norway, Netherlands, Republic of Korea, Republic of South Africa, Singapore, Switzerland, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, the United States of America, and the European Commission