

Fuel cell buses in China by 2008

China plans to introduce fuel cell-powered buses in 2008, when it hosts the Olympic Games. According to Prof. Zhang Huamin of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), technical specifications of the nation's first 50 kW fuel cell engine for use on urban buses is quite near to advanced international levels. Tests conducted by a motor research institute affiliated with Qinghua University have shown that the hydrogen efficiency of the engine is as high as 97 per cent, while the efficiency of the fuel cell groups stand at 57 per cent. CAS Dalian Institute of Chemicophysics, where the fuel cell engineering centre is located, has successfully developed fuel cell engines for minibuses and sedans. Fuel cells may even boost China's fledgling motor industry.