

Record run by SOFC

In the Netherlands, the world's longest running high-temperature fuel cell has successfully completed its planned test programme. The 100 kW solid oxide fuel cell (SOFC) unit, designed by Siemens Westinghouse Power Corp., has helped validate prospects of a future all-solid-state, combustion-less source of electricity. The unit accumulated 16,612 hours of operation, thereby proving that the revolutionary concept of an all-ceramic fuel cell is rugged and reliable enough for future commercial power generation. SOFC is a concentric arrangement of electrically conductive ceramic tubes. Fuelled by natural gas, the system generates electricity by a quiet, highly efficient electrochemical reaction. A major advantage is the absence of pollutants normally related to conventional power plant boilers. *Contact: Mr. Robert C. Porter, DOE Office of Fossil Energy, the United States. Tel: +1 (202) 5866 503; E-mail: robert.porter@hq.doe.gov.*