

Recent developments in fuel cell technology

A brief description of some of the latest developments in fuel cell technology in the United States and Canada is given below.

- The Texas natural Resource Conservation Commission plans to acquire 10 remote fuel cell power systems from DCH Technology Inc. The DCH/Enable™ units will provide electricity on demand to air and water quality sampling equipment, as well as communications equipment providing real-time data feedback. The 15 W, 12 V systems are a next-generation design of DCH's 12 W Enable™ portable fuel cell. The new design provides a patent-pending internal fuel supply technology that improves proton exchange membrane fuel cell reliability, a critical factor in unattended applications such as remote field power.
- In the United States, FuelCell Energy Inc. has shipped a 250 kW Direct FuelCell® for installation at the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP). The company currently has a field trial backlog of 10 MW, including two additional 250 kW power plants for LADWP.
- Manhattan Scientifics Inc., has developed and tested an ultra-light 3 kW fuel cell system. It uses advanced composite materials to minimize size and weight. The total system, including fans, valves, electronics, cables and tubes, weighs 5.9 kg. This high-power unit is capable of providing emergency power for essential elements in a typical household. The proprietary system is highly portable, making it ideal for small vehicles such as electric scooters and golf carts.
- Ballard Generation Systems, Canada, has built and commenced in-house testing of its 10 kW stationary fuel cell power generator. Fuelled by natural gas, this system is designed for back-up, light industrial and stand-by applications for telecommunications.

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