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Participation of Switzerland in the International Energy Agency Implementing Agreement Annex XVIII(SOFC)

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Dauer des Projekts (von – bis)	1. 8. 2005 – 31.12.2008

ZUSAMMENFASSUNG

The project covers participation and representing of Switzerland in IEA implementation agreement Annex XVIII. It involves participation at workshops and gathering and dissemination to the concerned community of available information.

Main activity was participation at the Helsinki Workshop, focusing on several specific topics to the field of SOFC development, and some activity overview of member countries.

The Workshop was linked to the European Fuel Cell Forum in Lucerne; attendance was good and information exchanged openly between the participants.

Main conclusion is that three global groupings are appearing, as the complexity of the task requires a lot of collaboration. The impression is that SOFC development has obtained a lot of attention in Japan and the US, and that we are about to see a race between the three big industrial regions (Jp, US, EU), with relevant activity also in Korea and China. Research and development funds are increasing considerably in Jp and US, the EU players hope to find new tools in the EU FP7 programme. Still, EU funding level remains behind the ones of the competitive regions.

Further activity was the participation and representation of CH interests at the Hydrogen and Fuel cell Platform (HFP) General Assembly in Brussels (5/6th of October). Main conclusion was that in order to protect Swiss Industry and Academia's interest, more lobbying activity is required, as there is a danger of Swiss actors not being allowed to participate in the Industry Grouping acting as constituting member of the public private partnership for hydrogen and fuel cell promotion in Europe, the Joint Technology Initiative (JTI).

Projektziele

The main activity is the fair representation of Swiss SOFC related activities to the international platform. This involves gathering of information from the Swiss community, compiling into a presentation for the international audience and presenting to the IEA meeting.

Representation on the EU level also involves participation in EU workshop to bring in the Swiss point of view, somewhat particular due to Switzerland specific status being not member of EU or EEA.

Finally, the activity involves reporting on the event to the Swiss partners on the main lines of the meeting and making available meeting proceedings to all interested Swiss partners.

Durchgeführte Arbeiten und erreichte Ergebnisse

The main activity was the participation and representation of Switzerland in the context of the IEA Advanced Fuel Cells implementation agreement, i.e. the Annex XVIII. In addition, Switzerland's interests were represented at the Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Platform General Assembly in Brussels. This involves participation at workshops and gathering and dissemination to the concerned community of available information.

Deliverables:

- Presentation of Swiss activities in Helsinki and Workshop report
- HFC General Assembly report
- Proceedings of the Helsinki meeting (compiled as CD)

Nationale Zusammenarbeit

The collected information is made available to all interest CH parties in the form of travel reports and CD-Rom for containing the presentations.

Internationale Zusammenarbeit

IEA Implementation Agreement Advanced Fuel Cells.

Bewertung 2006 und Ausblick 2007

In the frame of the IEA, it was possible to enlarge the accessible network available to Swiss partners. This is especially important in perspective of new coordinated research programs, i.e. on the EU level with the Joint Technology Initiatives.

Particular attention should be drawn to the up-coming activities of the Joint Technology Initiative JTI, a Public Private Partnership of the European Commission and the Fuel Cell industry. Professional support of the Swiss industry at EU level is required in order to preserve Swiss interests in a more and more international context. Denied access to participation in this context could penalise Switzerland's interest on the long term for the entire field of Hydrogen and Fuel Cell technologies.