

Hydrogen Highway Public Education Meeting

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Challenges to university program development on energy-hydrogen-fuel cells (EHF)

Traditional Departments / Broad Degree Programs

- EHF must be identified as research priority area by funding agencies with visible, substantial, and long term commitment of research and education funds
- EHF research, education and training must be connected to a successful EHF industry that can offer good employment prospects to EHF trained students
- EHF research and development programs should be initiated that will help academia and industry interact
- Accountability of peer review based funding of EHF research is necessary
- University based Public Education Programs should be initiated that will help make Hydrogen visible to the public at large, as a preferred means of energy delivery

How can California assist its Universities to develop new research centers for EHF (new ORU's/MRU's)

- Universities are good at bringing the right people together to explore interesting research problems, as long as there is a long term commitment from the funding agencies.
- Additional administrative University structures (ORU's/MRU's) are unnecessary and should be discouraged. They will simply increase administrative overhead with no tangible benefits
- Multidisciplinary research centers can function very well within and across existing University structures (Departments/Schools), and can provide the framework for increased EHF University efforts
- Provide extensive fellowship/assistantship support for students interested in working on EHF problems.
- Provide extensive support for student industrial internship programs, so as to help promote interactions between academia and industry

University hosting/demonstration of new EHF technologies (e.g. fueling stations)

- Universities can help accelerate significantly the deployment of hydrogen economy related infrastructure
- Through proper site selection of such infrastructure as Hydrogen fueling stations, they can increase the public's awareness to said infrastructure, as well as provide some access to it for public use
- Universities can help overcome several issues related to the deployment of such infrastructure, such as permitting, and insurance
- Universities often have an established safety infrastructure (Fire Department) that can become a knowledge depository for Hydrogen safety issues
- Universities can merge research, student/public education, demonstration functions in a natural way, keeping however in mind the exploratory/research nature of this infrastructure

Models for matching students with an EHF background with companies seeking EHF expertise

- Extensive funding of industrial internships for students working on EHF related research problems
- Sponsorship of a seminar series that would involve lectures by industry researchers to select university audiences (professors/students) working on EHF issues
- Sponsorship of visits to industrial EHF sites by University researchers and students
- Registration of companies interested in EHF expertise with campus recruiting/placement organizations
- Electronic compilation of a compendium of EHF related positions with labor placement and EHF industry organizations
- Electronic compilation of a compendium of EHF related student curriculum vitae with University based EHF Centers