

SOFC Research in the European Union - Running Activities and Future Prospects

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The European Commission (EC) plays an important role in European fuel cell research by supporting projects capable of making a significant impact at European/international level. The EC programmes also aim to improve the collaboration between national programs as well as the scientific and technical basis of Europe. Most of the research activities are supported on a shared cost basis by the EC and must be carried out as multi-partner projects by external public and private organizations from different EU member states and Associated countries. Selected examples of representative projects include; (1) SOFCNET - thematic network that brings together all major EU players in SOFC technology with focus on technology acquisition; (2) IP - SOFC: Pressurized SOFC technology with internal reforming for 1 MW+ class hybrid systems.

This paper reviews the current and future SOFC activities in EU member states and Associated countries.