

into the crash [FCB, November 2004] concluded that Helios had suffered critical structural damage as a result of unpredictable 'sensitivity to normal turbulence' following configuration changes to the aircraft in preparation for a planned two-day endurance test.

Contact: AeroVironment Inc, Monrovia, California, USA. Tel: +1 626 357 9983, www.aerovironment.com

Cellex completes fuel cell forklift trials for Wal-Mart

BC-based Cellex Power Products has completed alpha field trials of its fuel cell product for electric forklifts, in collaboration with the logistics subsidiary of Wal-Mart Stores [FCB, July 2004]. The trials' success has convinced Wal-Mart to continue its support of Cellex's forklift product through beta field trials and the subsequent commercialization process. Crown Equipment Corporation will supply the forklift trucks for the future trials.

The trial, which took place at a Wal-Mart food distribution center in Missouri, involved four Cellex fuel cell units powering a fleet of electric pallet trucks for two weeks. The power units ran without any safety incidents, and refueled with compressed hydrogen in 1 min. The truck operators were also reported to be very pleased with the performance of the pallet trucks powered by Cellex fuel cells, which can maintain consistent power delivery to the vehicle at all times, unlike conventional batteries.

Tom Hoying, VP for sales & marketing at Cellex, welcomes Wal-Mart's continued support, as a 'key driver' in moving fuel cells from a demonstration technology to a commercial product in the material handling industry.

Contact: Cellex Power Products Inc, Richmond, BC, Canada. Tel: +1 604 270 4300, www.cellexpower.com

FCE power plants for aluminum smelter

Connecticut-based FuelCell Energy and Alliance Power of Colorado are to supply two 250 kWe Direct FuelCell® power plants to a secondary aluminum smelter in southern California operated by major US aluminum producer and processor TST Inc. Delivery of the units is expected by the first quarter of 2006.

Electricity produced by the two DFC power plants, which will operate on natural gas, will

be sold to TST as part of a five-year power purchase agreement. In addition, waste heat from the DFC units will be used to cut emissions by replacing a large burner that preheats air as part of TST's aluminum manufacturing process. Use of fuel cell power plants will allow TST to manage energy costs and reduce emissions, while providing reliable, 24/7 electricity appropriate for base load power requirements.

The South Coast Air Quality Management District is providing \$500 000 in funding support for TST's fuel cell initiative, with additional financial assistance of up to \$1.25m available from the California Public Utility Commission's Self-Generation Incentive Program.

In other news, the 1 MWe fuel cell power plant designed and built by FCE for California-based Sierra Nevada Brewing Co was recently dedicated in the presence of Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger. The power plant consists of four 250 kWe DFC units – generating sufficient electricity for essentially 100% of the brewery's base load power requirements – and is the largest commercial high-temperature fuel cell installation in the state [FCB, July 2004]. Waste heat will also be harnessed for use in the brewing process as well as other heating needs.

Contact: FuelCell Energy Inc, Danbury, Connecticut, USA. Tel: +1 203 825 6000, www.fce.com

Or contact: Alliance Power Inc, Littleton, Colorado, USA. Tel: +1 303 730 2328, www.alliancepower.com

IdaTech to continue developing portable fuel cells for US Army

Oregon-based IdaTech has entered into a new contract with the US Army concerning the development of a portable fuel cell system for military applications. This builds on a similar development contract between the two parties signed in August 2004.

The new agreement calls for IdaTech to continue development and to enhance its 250 We, integrated, man-portable fuel cell system for military programs. This contract targets the development of a lighter and smaller fuel cell system with an on-board packaged liquid fuel reformer, to provide an easily transported and operated, fully integrated power source. The 250 We system is designed for use in tactical military operations, on domestic bases and during training, to supply quiet, rechargeable power over an extended length of time and eliminate the need for expensive, heavy, non-rechargeable batteries. A prototype, developed under the initial contract,

IN BRIEF

New president/CEO for Fuel Cells Canada

Vancouver-based Fuel Cells Canada, the national industry association for the hydrogen and fuel cell sector, has appointed John Tak as its new president and CEO. He takes over from Louise Comeau, who left after less than a year at the helm of the influential association.

Tak brings extensive experience in the public and private sectors from his work at Magna International, the Asia Pacific Foundation, the BC Trade and Development Corporation and most recently Mitsubishi Canada Ltd, where he was in charge of all aspects of Mitsubishi Canada's specialty chemicals business. While at BC Trade, he implemented and managed industrial policy and project initiatives both at home and in Japan.

Fuel Cells Canada (www.fuelcellscanada.ca) is a non-profit, member-driven industry association which aims to accelerate Canada's world-leading hydrogen and fuel cell industry. It works closely with government and industry partners on Canada's hydrogen and fuel cell technology demonstration projects – the BC Hydrogen Highway, Toronto's Hydrogen Village and the Vancouver Fuel Cell Vehicle Program.

Brakes on California's hydrogen highway

California's Hydrogen Highway Network Blueprint Plan (CA H2 Net) has received a setback, with state legislators approving barely half the money proposed by the state Environmental Protection Agency's plan. CA H2 Net [FCB, July] recommends spending \$10.7m a year for the next five years, to a total of \$53.5m. However, lawmakers finalizing the state budget have approved just \$6.5m from January 2006 for the construction of 'up to three demonstration hydrogen fueling stations in the state.' Concerns were raised in particular about the level of viability of FCV technology and the future ownership by private companies of fueling stations built with the help of public funds.

According to the *San Jose Mercury News*, this setback jeopardizes Governor Schwarzenegger's goal of having up to 100 hydrogen stations servicing 2000 hydrogen vehicles in California by 2010. A spokesman for the state EPA said that the highway plan was 'still moving forwards,' and the approved funding was enough to start construction of hydrogen stations. Environmentalists are reportedly planning to approach the federal government for more funding.

Industry veteran joins Astris' board

Gary G. Brandt, formerly chief financial officer of Ontario-based Hydrogenics, has joined the board of nearby alkaline fuel cell firm Astris Energi. Describing Brandt as 'a well respected industry leader with an enviable track record,' chairman/CEO Jiri K. Nor says that Astris's board would benefit from Brandt's expertise in business development and capital financing.