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Joint Commitment to Fuel Cells

Companies and Federal Minister of Transport Emphasize the Potential of this Future Technology

Oldenburg, Germany, August 28, 2007. "Hydrogen and fuel cell technology is a critical building block when it comes to climate protection and our future energy supply." Federal Minister Wolfgang Tiefensee emphasized this point today during a visit to EWE AG in Oldenburg. The minister of transport, construction and urban development obtained more information about the current state of development of stationary fuel cells for single-family and multi-family houses at the EWE educational center.

The company's cooperative partners – manufacturers Baxi Innotech, CFCL, Hexis, Vaillant and Viessmann – presented their fuel cell devices in Oldenburg. The presentation triggered a detailed exchange of information among Tiefensee, the manufacturers and EWE.

The minister was visibly impressed by the potential of the stationary application. "I expect stationary fuel cells to play a highly significant role in the efficient and environmentally compatible provision of heat and electricity to our buildings for a long time to come," stated Tiefensee. EWE and the manufacturers made great strides toward a market launch of this technology through their field tests.

EWE is already one of the leaders in the testing of fuel cells and intends to further intensify this commitment. As Dr. Werner Brinker, CEO of EWE AG, underlined, "Intelligent solutions are the key to the energy supply of the future. We are delighted to have the federal government support us in this project." It is now only a matter of time until fuel cells become established in the market.

Fuel cell technology is undisputedly regarded as the most efficient form of combined heat and power generation among experts. As part of the ten-year "National Innovation Program for Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Technology," government and industry are promoting the further development of this technology for mobile and stationary applications. Government and industry are each providing about 500 million euros in funding. The goal of the program is to make fuel cells marketable through joint demonstration projects known as "lighthouse" projects.

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The scheduled lighthouse project in domestic energy supply is a joint project of EWE, Baxi Innotech, MVV, Vaillant and Viessmann. Other companies also have the option to participate.

Press images: www.ewe.de

Established in 1999 under the name european fuel cell gmbh, **BAXI INNOTECH GmbH** has been serving as the development company within the BAXI Group (Europe's third-largest heating technology group) since 2002. The corporate goal is to develop products and focus attention on the effective use of fuel cell heating devices for single-family houses within the European market.

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Australian fuel cell manufacturer **Ceramic Fuel Cells Limited (CFCL)** develops natural gas-driven fuel cells for single-family houses. The company currently employs a staff of about 100 and tests fuel cells in Australia, Europe and New Zealand. The devices from CFCL have an electrical and thermal capacity of 1 kilowatt respectively.

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CFCL's cooperative partner in the development of a fully-integrated device is **Gebr. Bruns GmbH**. The heating device manufacturer has been situated in the municipality of Saterland for over 40 years and employed a staff of over 200 at the end of 2006.

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EWE ranks among Germany's largest energy services companies and is headquartered in Oldenburg in the federal state of Lower Saxony. The group's business activities are comprised of electricity, natural gas and water supply, energy and environmental technology as well as gas transmission and trade, telecommunications and information technology. In 2006, the EWE Group employed a staff of around 5,800 and recorded sales of 9.0 billion euros. Since 1998, EWE has already tested 48 fuel cell systems for single-family and multi-family houses.

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Hexis AG is an independent company. A team of 15 is currently working on the further development of the high-temperature fuel cell type SOFC and the associated system. The "Galileo 1000 N" fuel cell heating device, powered by natural gas, generates a maximum of 1 kW of electrical power. An auxiliary burner is

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turned on automatically as needed. The system is designed to cover the basic electricity requirements and the total heating requirements of a single-family house.

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The **Vaillant Group** is an international group involved in the fields of heating, ventilation and air conditioning technology. As a global market and technology leader, the company consisting of almost 10,100 employees achieved sales of approximately 2 billion euros in the 2006 financial year. The company has been developing fuel cell heating devices since 1998 in partnerships with Plug Power and Webasto for multi-family houses, small business enterprises and single-family houses. Sixty prototypes have been meanwhile successfully field tested throughout Europe.

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Viessmann Unternehmensgruppe is one of the leading international manufacturers of heating technology systems. The company, now in its third generation and run by Dr. Martin Viessmann, was established in the year 1917. Total group sales amount to approximately 1.4 billion euros and the company employs a staff of approximately 7,400. The company provides heat generators with capacities ranging from 1.5 kW to 20 MW for oil, gas, solar, wood and natural heat energy sources as well as the associated system technology. Viessmann is focusing on the development of a fuel cell system with an electrical capacity of 2 kW.

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