

Aix en Provence, May the 21st, 2007

A new step forward for HELION

HELION, an AREVA subsidiary specialised in both hydrogen energy and fuel cells, has installed the first 30 kWe industrial backup power system based on fuel cell technology directly at the customer's site. After the startup of its first 20 kWe prototype in November 2005, this system marks a new step in HELION's growth.

With 30 kWe power outlet, this backup power system, made of HELION's fuel cell and an inverter, has indeed been set up in real operating conditions at the new CEA (French Commission for Atomic Energy) headquarters in Saclay.



This system guarantees the power supply durability of a vital part of the CEA offices. Compared with existing solutions using batteries and diesel generators, the system offers notable advantages: high autonomy levels, noise-free, greenhouse gases-free, reliable and rapid startup to supply the required load demand.

Showcased at the new CEA headquarters inauguration in July 2006, the system, in operation for 10 months to date, has been regularly tested with a great success, thus confirming the real interest for such technologies.

Some technical information on the system installed:

- Technology: an integrated fuel cell-based system with Proton Exchange Membrane (PEM) stack (fuel cell core) designed with both a process unit and an electric unit
- Operating mode: silent, this system operates automatically in a pure hydrogen-oxygen mode with a very high level of reliability and availability. The only effluent produced is water.
- Nominal available electric power for the user: 30 kWe in alternative current, at 400 V three-phase voltage.