



## The President's Hydrogen Fuel Initiative

President Bush, in his State of the Union Address, called for a hydrogen fuel initiative and proposed an overall \$1.7 billion for fuel cell vehicle and hydrogen fuel research and development over the next five years. The proposal includes \$720 million in new spending, in addition to \$1 billion already budgeted for hydrogen and FreedomCAR programs.

Details of the program will be available early next week when the budget is released. The new spending would support "new funding over the next five years to develop the technologies and infrastructure needed to produce, store, and distribute hydrogen for use in fuel cell vehicles and electricity generation," according to a Department of Energy Fact Sheet.

For details, see: <http://www.eren.doe.gov/freedomfuel/>

The program will be managed by a single office, which allows some cross-over between fuel cell and hydrogen program funding, but DOE has been talking for about a year about the likelihood that research for fuel cells in motor vehicle applications will plateau after 2004, given the level of private sector investment.

### White House Press Release

The President's Hydrogen Fuel Initiative was the lead item in the White House press release identifying "Key Initiatives" advanced by the President, even listed ahead of bio-terrorism protection.

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2003/01/20030128-14.html>

### President's Remarks

Here are the president's words, from the White House transcript:

*In this century, the greatest environmental progress will come about not through endless lawsuits or command-and-control regulations, but through technology and innovation. Tonight I'm proposing \$1.2 billion in research funding so that America can lead the world in developing clean, hydrogen-powered automobiles. (Applause.)*

*A single chemical reaction between hydrogen and oxygen generates energy, which can be used to power a car -- producing only water, not exhaust fumes. With a new national commitment, our scientists and engineers will overcome obstacles to taking these cars from*

*laboratory to showroom, so that the first car driven by a child born today could be powered by hydrogen, and pollution-free. (Applause.)*

*Join me in this important innovation to make our air significantly cleaner, and our country much less dependent on foreign sources of energy. (Applause.)*

**BTI / Fuel Cells 2000 Press Release:**

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*Statement of Robert Rose, Executive Director, Breakthrough Technologies Institute/Fuel Cells 2000, on President Bush's call for \$1.7 billion for fuel cell vehicle research and development of hydrogen technologies for vehicles and power generation:*

“President Bush’s call for a significant increase in federal funding for hydrogen and fuel cells is timely and most welcome. The federal investment, in partnership with industry, will pay dividends in new jobs and a cleaner environment. Most importantly, fuel cells and hydrogen offer the promise of true energy security for our nation.

“The proposal is in line with the industry’s own *Path Forward* document, which calls for \$5 billion overall for the family of fuel cell technologies (including vehicles, electricity generation and micro-fuel cells).

“The President’s speech is an act of leadership, but it is just a beginning, not an end. We will see program details next week and then the debate will move to Congress, where we hope it will be considered in the context of a comprehensive fuel cell and hydrogen commercialization strategy.”

Breakthrough Technologies Institute is a private, non-profit, educational organization formed in 1993 to promote advanced environmental and energy technologies. Our Fuel Cells 2000 program educates interested citizens about the benefits and status of fuel cells. Fuel Cells 2000 is internationally recognized and has won numerous awards.

**For More Information**

Fuel Cell and Hydrogen Videos: <http://www.fuelcells.org/biblio.htm#video>

Fact Sheet on the President’s proposal: <http://www.eren.doe.gov/freedomfuel/>

*Path Forward* document: [www.fuelcellpath.org](http://www.fuelcellpath.org)