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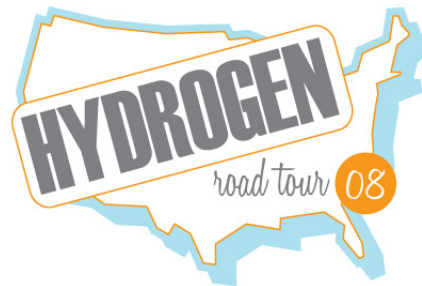
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South Carolina Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Alliance announces the Hydrogen Road Tour

Media and the public will have the three opportunities to learn about hydrogen cars with hands-on experiences on Saturday, August 16



Columbia, S.C. – The South Carolina Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Alliance (SCHFCA) will welcome ten hydrogen vehicles to South Carolina this Saturday when the Hydrogen Road Tour travels through our state on a cross-country education and publicity tour.

The Hydrogen Road Tour is a two-week series of media, VIP and public events throughout the country that demonstrates progress and commitment toward commercially viable, emissions-free hydrogen vehicles. The Tour will feature ten hydrogen vehicles traveling across the United States from Maine to California with 33 stops in 18 states. The SCHFCA will host three stops in South Carolina on Saturday, August 16 in the Upstate, Columbia and Aiken.

“We couldn’t be more thrilled about the Hydrogen Road Tour coming to South Carolina,” said Shannon Baxter-Clemmons, Executive Director of the SCHFCA. “This Tour is a perfect opportunity for South Carolina’s citizens to learn more about the technologies that are reshaping our state’s view of energy through an exciting hands-on experience.”

At two of the Hydrogen Road Tour’s stops, the public will be able to get behind the wheel of some of the world’s top hydrogen vehicles and take a short drive on a designated course. South Carolina’s first hydrogen vehicle, a 2007 Chevrolet Silverado with an eTec/Roush Industries Hydrogen Internal Combustion Engine (HICE), will join the Tour at every stop in the state. The truck is owned by the Center for Hydrogen Research in Aiken, SC.

The Tour’s first stop in South Carolina will be in the Upstate at BMW Zentrum on Saturday August 16 from 10:30am – 12:30pm. The stop will provide the media, invited VIPs and the public with a unique experience where they will be able to take part in a public ride-and-drive on a closed course. Rep. Bob Inglis (R-SC) will be in attendance at the event where BMW will showcase the BMW Hydrogen 7, the world’s first luxury performance sedan with hydrogen drive.

The Tour’s second stop will be in Columbia at Midlands Technical College from 2 – 4pm when VIPs, media and the public will again be invited to get behind the wheel of a hydrogen-powered car. Midlands Technical College is home to the Fuel Cell Technician Program and recently received a \$62,000 award from the Greater Columbia Fuel Cell Challenge to expand its fuel cell

program. An educational area will be set up that will allow the public the opportunity to learn more about hydrogen technologies and the SCHFCA through educational displays, videos and literature.

Finally, the Tour will stop in Aiken at the Bridgestone Firestone plant from 5:30 – 7:00 pm and will refuel using Bridgestone's hydrogen fueling station on-site, which supports their fleet of hydrogen fuel cell forklifts operating at the facility. The public will also be invited to learn more about the hydrogen fueling process and will be able to take a closer look under the hood of a hydrogen vehicle.

On Sunday, August 17, the Hydrogen Road Tour will begin its trek westward to California.

"The Tour's timing couldn't be better," said Baxter-Clemmons. "The public will get a small preview of what they can expect when the National Hydrogen Association's annual conference comes to Columbia next Spring and offers an entire day of public ride-and-drive opportunities."

The 2009 National Hydrogen Association Conference and Hydrogen Expo will be held March 30 through April 3 at the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center in Columbia, SC.

For more information about the Hydrogen Road Tour, please visit www.hydrogenroadtour.com.

About the South Carolina Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Alliance

The SCHFCA is a public-private collaboration for cooperative and coordinated utilization of resources in the state used to advance the commercialization of hydrogen and fuel cell technologies. Founded in January 2006, the SCHFCA was created by a number of core organizations devoted to hydrogen and fuel cell initiatives: The Center for Hydrogen Research, Clemson University, Savannah River National Laboratory, the S.C. Department of Commerce, S.C. State University, EngenuitySC the South Carolina Research Authority, the South Carolina Energy Office and the University of South Carolina. For more information about the SCHFCA, its members and their activities, please visit www.schhydrogen.org.

About the Hydrogen Road Tour

The Hydrogen Road Tour is a two-week trip across the U.S. with more than 30 planned stops beginning on August 11 to showcase clean, efficient, hydrogen powered cars. The tour, organized by the U.S. Department of Transportation, U.S. Department of Energy, National Hydrogen Association, and California Fuel Cell Partnership, seeks to highlight progress made with the development of hydrogen vehicle and fueling technologies. Hydrogen, in addition to biofuels and hybrids, is one of many options that can play an important role in our future energy portfolio. Among these options, hydrogen can make the greatest long-term impact on reducing pollution and fuel imports from vehicles.

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