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Fuel cell projects get support

The USC Columbia Fuel Cell Challenge announced today it will spend more than \$1 million to fund three local hydrogen fuel cell projects and one project from a Texas-based company.

Trulite, Boroscience International, Midlands Technical College and Millennium Cell/Gecko Energy Technologies were awarded the funding at the National Hydrogen Association Conference in Sacramento, Calif.

Trulite, based in Houston, will work on a portable power generator called the KH4.

Boroscience, a Columbia-based company, will develop fuel sources for portable fuel cells.

Midlands Technical College will enhance its work force development program for training employees in the hydrogen and fuel cell industry.

Millennium Cell will test its latest product, an LED light and device charger. The product will be tested by Gecko Technologies, a Millennium Cell subsidiary based in Columbia.

"These projects provide an outstanding demonstration of economic development "win-win" outcomes that arise from successful partnerships and collaborations," Bill Mahoney, president and chief executive officer of the South Carolina Research Authority, said in a news release.

The USC Fuel Cell Challenge is organized by USC, the city of Columbia, the South Carolina Research Authority and EngenuitySC.

These latest awards are the second phase of the challenge's funding project. The first phase funded 10 projects. This second phase seeks to build on the first phase's successes.

— Adam Beam