



PRESS - RELEASE

Trade Fitters learn Fuel Cell Technology

Hamburg, Germany 14th December 2005 In preparation for the first field test in Germany, european fuel cell gmbh (efc) is providing a training programme for the service technicians of EnBW Energie Baden-Württemberg AG, the energy supplier and their cooperation partner. This training programme at efc is equipping the EnBW service technicians with specialist knowledge of fuel cell heating technology, and confidence in how to handle it.

Roland Repple, one of the participants, is pleased at how “the efc development team are so open in the way they communicate their knowledge, also talking to us about the weaknesses in the system and allowing us to inspect the aggregate closely”. His colleague, Michael Hölzer, is also pleased, as he sees the opportunity to make a constructive contribution to the further development of the BETA 1.5 during its field test in Schiltach, Baden Württemberg. “The technology has been completely thought through, yet it’s more complex than conventional heating technology”, says Herman Kuch. He went on to say that, as there is a higher degree of complexity, the technology is more demanding – so there is greater room for error during the installation, commissioning and operation of the unit. So Mr Kuch is glad that the efc technicians will be supervising the commissioning and will be available to answer any questions that may come up. Volker Neumann also finds the efc team very competent. For him, however, it is equally important that there was a meeting of like-minded people. “You cannot simply assume that the communication will be candid”, he says. “That can only be achieved through trust.”

The efc training follows a twenty-point programme, and each point is tailored to the requirements of the individual participants. The training comprises theoretical instruction in the fundamentals of fuel cell technology as well as direct, hands-on training with the apparatus itself. At the seminar the efc engineers, technicians and development team passed on to the service technicians a concentrated digest of their extensive know-how, obtained over many years of development. The following items featured on the agenda: how the complete system functions, the gas preparation process, the fuel cell process, the principles of the control engineering of the unit and its safety systems. At the same time, the participants got a taste of what it feels like to be part of the development team. The EnBW service technicians will in turn be passing on their knowledge to their trade partners on site.

Training as an important part of the further development of fuel cell heating units

Guido Gummert, Managing Director of european fuel cell gmbh, emphasises that “for efc, the training of future service technicians is an important component to ensure that the fuel cell heating unit operates correctly and is further developed during its field test phase.” The first seminar for the specialist fitters and service technicians, which took place on 1st and 2nd December 2005 at the efc premises in Hamburg represents a further step towards the efc goal: the continued

development of the fuel cell heating unit for a single family house in preparation for the market.

europaen fuel cell gmbh have been concentrating on the development of fuel cell heating units for eight years now, with the intention that, in the future, these units will provide the lion's share of the energy and heat required in single-family houses. The Hamburg based development company has been testing the complete unit for reliability in intensive, long-term test programmes to ensure its continuous performance. The laboratory tests have now been successfully concluded, and, from the first quarter of 2006 onwards, the BETA 1.5 unit will be put through its paces by the energy supply company EnBW, when it is field tested in an authentic environment.

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picture caption: This requires hands-on experience: The seminar participants try out the operation of the BETA 1.5 unit, working directly with the apparatus via its visual display unit.

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