

PRESS - RELEASE

Forward-looking fuel cell technology on the way to series production

CE Certification for efc Fuel Cell Unit

Hamburg, Germany, 10th April 2006 The european fuel cell company is working step by step towards the series production of its fuel cell heating unit for single-family houses. And now they have reached a further stage. For the first time in Germany, the CE certification (the EC prototype verification certificate) has been awarded for the complete series of the BETA 1.5.

The first CE certification in Germany for the complete series of a PEM fuel cell heating unit with an output of 1.5 kW energy and 3.0 kW, heat along with a 15 kW calorific heating unit, has brought the Hamburg-based european fuel cell company one step closer to series production. This means that in future it will no longer be necessary to have each unit approved separately. The certificate for the EC prototype verification from the German association for the gas and water trades (the *Deutschen Vereinigung des Gas- und Wasserfachs - DVGW*) is valid for the complete BETA 1.5 series. The CE certificate attests conformity of the product with the EC Gas Appliances Directive and confirms observation of quality standards in the production phase. In this way, each unit from the BETA 1.5 series may be deployed in destination countries within the European Union without any further testing.

Guido Gummert, General Manager of efc is very satisfied with this achievement. "This certificate demonstrates that the unit fulfils the required standards concerning operational safety, environmental sustainability and efficient energy generation," he says. The CE certification is a further milestone towards future series production based on a well thought-out, sustainable development process.

Over the last four years, the development of the fuel cell heating unit was supervised by the *TÜV Rheinland* (the Rhineland technical inspection authority). The inspections for CE conformity were carried out in accordance with the VP 119 examination principles for fuel cell heating equipment and the gas appliances directive. Guido Gummert explains, "Each component was considered in detail, as the intrinsic safety of each constituent part must be assured." In this way, the fuel cell heating unit has been more exhaustively tested than any gas boiler. After a nine-month test phase by the TÜV, the inspections were successfully concluded and the CE quality standard was certified.

The 4th quarter of 2005 saw the beginning of the commissioning processes. Since the beginning of 2006, four efc units have been put into field test operation. They are currently generating energy and heat, operating in situ in Eyemouth in Scotland, in the Schiltach community in Baden-Württemberg, in the Centre for Energy, Water and Environmental Technology at the Chamber of Trade in Hamburg, and in a multiple family dwelling belonging to the Railwaybuilders' Association in Hamburg. Guido Gummert plans to "send an additional unit into the field test phase every month until the end of this year". Following a successful probationary period

where energy and heat is generated locally, the first pre-series production phase for the fuel cell heating unit will take place within two years.

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picture caption: Agreement on improved climate protection at the Hanover Trade Fair: Angela Merkel, chancellor of Germany, learns about the state of development of the fuel cell heating unit from representatives of the heating equipment industry. Next to her (right): Guido Gummert, Managing Director of BAXI INNOTECH, Hamburg, Germany

press contact:

IMA Institut GmbH

Claudia Palozzo

Alstertor 1

D- 20095 Hamburg

Tel. +49 (0) 40 30 96 96 -0

Fax: +49 (0) 40 30 96 96 -66

Email: c.palozzo@ima-gination.de

www.ima-gination.de