

PRESS - RELEASE

BAXI INNOTECH GmbH: A new, improved BETA 1.5 PLUS fuel cell heating unit is ready to go.

Fuel Cell for Hamburg Municipal Cleaners

At the press of a button, Dr Herlind Gundelach, Hamburg State Counsellor for the Environment, and Dr. Rüdiger Siechau, General Manager of the Hamburg Sanitation Department, set a fuel cell heating unit in operation on 17th September at the "Neuländer Kamp 6" recycling centre. The unit makes it possible to generate all the necessary heat for the premises, as well as a proportion of the electricity, directly on site. The energy source for this unit is environmentally friendly hydrogen, obtained from natural gas.

Hamburg, Germany, 17th September 2007 On starting up the plant, Dr. Rüdiger Siechau stated that "hydrogen is a climate-friendly energy source with a future". He went on to say that as climate protection was a central part of his own company strategy, it was important to support the further development of fuel cell technology.

In her speech, Dr. Herlind Gundelach, stressed that there was a demand to actively confront climate change. To this end the State of Hamburg wanted to achieve a reduction in CO₂ emissions of 25 per cent below 1990 levels within the next five years. "On this timescale, if the fuel cell heating unit is ready for the market by 2012, then the Hamburg Sanitation Department will certainly have made its contribution to this project," she said.

The BETA 1.5 PLUS – the new improved version in its next field test phase

With the setting up of this new unit for the decentralised generation of heat and electricity in Hamburg, a newly improved version of the BAXI INNOTECH fuel cell heating unit is being put into operation – one that can draw on the insights and experience gained from almost two heating periods. The field tests that have been carried out so far have led to – among other things – a newly-developed, safety-driven operation system for the fuel cell heating unit. This system meets one of many requirements for CE certification of the future series-production product.

This latest version already has fewer components than its predecessors, and most of these have a status that is close to series production, which will enable them to be manufactured in large quantities in future. In the words of Guido Gummert, General Manager of BAXI INNOTECH GmbH, "they have already proved themselves in terms of their function and safety. But we are still striving for less measurement instrumentation."

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picture caption: State Counsellor for the Environment Dr. Herlinde Gundelach with Dr. Rüdiger Siechau, Managing Director of the Municipal Cleaning Department Hamburg, at the commissioning of the BAXI INNOTECH BETA 1.5 PLUS unit.

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