



# THE PLAIN DEALER

## **\$1 million to bolster fuel cell efforts**

**Grant to aid generator for cab heaters, plugs**

Tuesday, March 28, 2006

**John Funk**  
Plain Dealer Reporter

Ohio's Edison Materials Technology Center has won a \$1 million state grant to assist a consortium led by a Cleveland fuel cell developer. The group hopes to produce a clean onboard power source for the trucking industry.

Fuel cell researcher Technology Management Inc. in Cleveland has developed a fuel cell that generates 1,000 watts by combining hydrogen with oxygen from the air.

The prototype unit includes a built-in device that makes the hydrogen from diesel fuel. The byproduct of the fuel cell's electrochemical reaction is water.

The plan is to build a robust, road-worthy fuel cell auxiliary power generator capable of producing 1,000 to 5,000 watts. The electricity would feed cab heaters, air conditioners and plugs, allowing the driver to operate a laptop, TV or other small appliance without running the rig's diesel engine.

The fuel cell could also be used to power refrigeration units, which today are powered by small diesel generators.

"Our challenge will be to integrate our existing fuel cell platform with this mobile, high-vibration application," Technology Management President Benson Lee said in a written statement.

The unit would end the pollution from engines left idling at rest stops and reduce a trucker's overall fuel costs, said David Swenson, the Edison center's vice president of business initiatives.

The units could be retrofitted on older trucks or built into new trucks, Swenson said, adding, "We believe this fuel cell approach to auxiliary power has an excellent opportunity in the market."

The nonprofit Dayton-based Edison center, which pays for research for Ohio manufacturing, will provide overall program management.

The \$1 million grant was made through Gov. Bob Taft's Third Frontier program, a \$1.6 billion high-tech research program designed to create Ohio jobs and bring new products to market.

Technology Management's partners in the project are automotive engineering company Ricardo Inc., Precision Energy & Technology, Remy International Inc. (formerly Delco-Remy) and industrial distributor W.W. Williams.

To reach this Plain Dealer reporter:

[jfunk@plained.com](mailto:jfunk@plained.com), 216-999-4138

© 2006 The Plain Dealer

© 2006 cleveland.com All Rights Reserved.