

## **European Commission launches euro fuel cells and hydrogen initiative**

The European Commission has launched a new fuel cells and hydrogen initiative. The Commission, and industry involved in the project, aim at ensuring that fuel cells and hydrogen become one of Europe's leading new strategic energy technologies.

Scenario analysis, undertaken in the EU-funded project HyWAYS, indicates that hydrogen, if introduced with suitable policy measures, could reduce the total oil consumption by the road transport sector by 40% between now and 2050. According to HyWAYS, comparing overall spending for hydrogen production, supply and vehicles with the savings to be gained from replacing conventional fuel and conventional vehicles over time, the break-even point could be most likely reached between 2025 and 2035.

The European Commission, European industry (more than 60 private companies, from multinationals to SMEs) and the European research community will invest together nearly €1 billion over six years in fuel cells and hydrogen research, technological development and demonstration. The goal is to achieve mass-market rollout of these promising technologies before 2020.

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<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/08/825&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

## **European automotive R&D investment growth continues to increase**

The European Commission's annual industrial R&D investment scoreboard shows that European R&D investment growth has outperformed the US. In particular, the EU automotive sector R&D investment growth (6.9%) was considerably above the three year average annual growth rate at 4.9 %.

The Automotive sector is the EU's biggest in terms of R&D investment. GM, Volkswagen and Toyota Motor were singled out as having the largest increase in R&D up by 22.7%, 16.1% and 9.6% respectively.

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<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/08/1504&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

## **Attention HR Executives – EU Agreement on temporary agency work**

The employment and social affairs Committee of the European Parliament has approved the Council of Ministers common position on temporary work. The common position has taken up the vast majority of the European Parliament's first-reading amendments, including those on equality of treatment of temporary workers with those of the employer company. Parliament's first reading amendments sought, in particular, equal treatment in the "essential conditions" of work and employment, covering working hours, overtime, breaks, and pay.

The draft directive had been blocked since 2002, mainly due to reservations from the UK. In adopting this report, the employment and social affairs Committee expressed the wish that this six-year old proposed Directive should enter into force without further delay. Further amendments

may nonetheless be tabled at the plenary session when the Parliament will formally adopt the proposals.

For further information click

[www.europarl.europa.eu/news/expert/infopress\\_page/048-38811-280-10-41-908-20081006IPR38810-06-10-2008-2008-false/default\\_en.htm](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/expert/infopress_page/048-38811-280-10-41-908-20081006IPR38810-06-10-2008-2008-false/default_en.htm)