

Shell Opens World First Hydrogen Station

The first Shell branded hydrogen station to be built at a Shell retail site anywhere in the world opened for business in Reykjavik, Iceland recently.

The station will be used to refuel three DaimlerChrysler Citaro fuel cell buses that will be run on Reykjavik's streets on a commercial basis. The Reykjavik hydrogen station, opened on April 24th, incorporates the machinery required to produce hydrogen on site, supplied by Norsk Hydro.

Shell Hydrogen Chief Executive, Jeremy Bentham, said he hoped retailing hydrogen would "one day" become a commercially viable proposition internationally. "This design will be seen as the early prototype for the Shell Hydrogen stations that could serve future customers", Bentham said.

The hydrogen at the Reykjavik station will be produced on site from water through electrolysis. "The operation of the hydrogen station will contribute to the ECTOS (Ecological City Transport System) project, a European Union supported project to research the socio-economic and environmental implications of changing the energy base of modern society", he said.



Meanwhile, Shell Hydrogen is providing funding and technical expertise to build a hydrogen refuelling station at Luxembourg's main bus station as part of a European Union initiative to show how fuel cell buses can provide clean urban transport across the continent. The refuelling station is planned to be operational in the third quarter of 2003.

Later this year Shell Hydrogen will test the next generation prototype hydrogen dispenser

at an existing Shell retail site in Washington DC. Showa Shell will open a hydrogen station in Tokyo, to be used by fleets of fuel cell vehicles run by various automotive companies. Shell Hydrogen, a global business of the Royal Dutch/Shell group of companies, is also involved in hydrogen demonstration projects in California and the Netherlands, plus a project developing fuel cells for stationary applications in Norway.