

Alliance To Fast Track Hydrogen Development

The University of Queensland has teamed up with the University of South Carolina to accelerate the development of hydrogen energy as a clean fuel alternative to oil.

Queensland Premier, Peter Beattie, said the universities have agreed to collaborate on research projects and business development as well as faculty and student exchanges. Beattie said hydrogen has great potential as a clean energy carrier to replace hydrocarbons at a time when the world is desperately seeking alternative energy sources.

"The development of hydrogen energy is one of several opportunities along with clean coal technologies and biofuels like ethanol that would enable Queensland to reduce CO₂ emissions as part of our response to climate change", he said.

The University of Queensland leads the recently formed National Hydrogen Materials

Alliance, funded under the CSIRO with \$10 million over three years. Griffith University and the Queensland University of Technology are also part of the alliance. Beattie said the University of South Carolina has significant expertise in hydrogen and fuel cell technologies.

"They host the National Science Foundation Industry/University Cooperative Research Center for Fuel Cells and they play a leadership role in the South Carolina Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Alliance", he said. The two universities have also agreed to mutually support the two biggest hydrogen conferences in the world over the next few years.

In June next year, Brisbane will host the 2008 World Hydrogen Energy Conference while the US National Hydrogen Association Annual Conference will be held in Columbia, South Carolina in March/April 2009. ■