



For Immediate Release  
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### **US Fuel Cell Council Starts Gasket Testing Program in February**

WASHINGTON, DC – The US Fuel Cell Council will start round-robin predictive testing of selected Proton Exchange Membrane (PEM) fuel cell gasket materials in February. This round-robin testing program is the culmination of over two years of work to identify critical gasket performance parameters, identify appropriate ASTM test protocols, select candidate gasket materials, and arrange for laboratory time and testing personnel to conduct the tests. While the US Fuel Cell Council expects each manufacturer to perform their own individual tests, the use of standardized testing protocols is intended to establish a baseline for gasket performance reporting that can be used across the industry. Results are expected later in 2009, with reporting at an industry symposium late in the year.

Four manufacturers of Gasket materials were asked to participate and those companies have agreed to supply test coupons as well as laboratory time for the project. The participating companies are: Henkel, Wacker Chemical, Dana Holding Corporation, and Michigan Adhesive Mfg. Inc. Cerium Laboratories has also agreed to perform Attenuated Total Reflectance Fourier Transform Infrared (ATR-FTIR) analysis on the test coupons at agreed to intervals. "The industry cooperation shown by these manufacturers and laboratories is a sign of the priority they place on fuel cell technologies. Their willingness to help establish an industry baseline for gasket performance shows that fuel cell technology has progressed beyond the proprietary research phase into cooperative industry research for the benefit of all." said Robert Wichert, Fuel Cell Council Technical Director.

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**About the US Fuel Cell Council:** The USFCC is an industry association dedicated to fostering the commercialization of fuel cells in the United States. Our members include the world's leading fuel cell developers, manufacturers, suppliers and customers.

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