



For Immediate Release
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US Fuel Cell Council Releases Gasket Guidance Document

WASHINGTON DC – March 15, 2007 –The US Fuel Cell Council published today guidelines for testing seal materials for fuel cells. Reliable gaskets are critical to the operation of fuel cell systems.

“As fuel cell manufacturers continue to improve system reliability, the importance of durable seals becomes more pronounced,” said Robert Wichert, USFCC Technical Director. “Use of this document will facilitate standard language pertaining to sealing systems (definitions, materials, and test methods). It is intended to enable successful material selection by addressing key performance metrics.”

The document, developed by the USFCC’s Gasket Focus Group, is intended to be a resource for anyone working with gasket design, specification, and qualification. The document may be downloaded for free on the US Fuel Cell Council website, www.usfcc.com.

The document covers the basics of gaskets (definitions and chemistries), and outlines recommended testing practices for seal material qualification. The information and recommendations were assembled based on extensive review of published test methods as well as input from the membership of the US Fuel Cell Council.

The USFCC Gasket Focus Group was formed as a subset of the Materials and Components Working Group to identify key characteristics and performance metrics of seals for PEM fuel cell systems.

Fuel cells are being developed for a wide variety of micro, portable, stationary and transportation markets. Fuel cells generate electricity electrochemically. Rather than relying on combustions, a fuel cell harnesses the energy of a fuel chemically in a reaction that is clean, quiet, safe and efficient.

With more than 110 members, the US Fuel Cell Council is the leading voice of the fuel cell industry. For more information, visit www.usfcc.com.

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