

Hydrogen and fuel cells in near term emerging markets

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A brief overview will be given of the status of hydrogen and fuel cell activities for near term emerging markets, from the perspective of US companies. In particular, focus on early markets will include backup, motive power, and prime power with combined heat and power. As a specific example, reference will be made to the status of fuel cell product commercialization by Plug Power, one of the leading fuel cell developers in the US. The importance and role of government policy towards deployment of early commercial systems will be highlighted. In addition, included will be a brief discussion of the potential impact of nanotechnology on fuel cell performance. Several examples will be given of how nanostructured catalysts and electrodes can impact both cost and reliability.