



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Contact:**

Shannon Baxter-Clemmons, Ph.D.  
Executive Director, South Carolina Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Alliance  
Phone: (803) 727-2897 [baxterclemmons@schydrogen.org](mailto:baxterclemmons@schydrogen.org)

**South Carolina Hydrogen Fuel Cell Alliance sponsors five teams to participate in First Fuel Cells “Green Machine” Competition**

**Columbia, SC** - The South Carolina Hydrogen Fuel Cell Alliance (SCHFCA) has sponsored an educational outreach program that challenges South Carolina’s students to design and build robots using hydrogen and fuel cell technology. The program is funded by South Carolina Research Authority (SCRA) and SC Launch as part of their effort to grow the hydrogen knowledge economy in South Carolina.

The SCHFCA and SCRA/SC Launch are supporting the entry fees and kits for five teams of high school students from across South Carolina participating in the First Fuel Cells “Green Machine” Competition taking place from September 2008 to May 2009.

“This is an incredible event because it educates our local youth about fuel cells,” said Shannon Baxter-Clemmons, Executive Director of the SCHFCA. “As the fuel cell economy continues to grow in South Carolina, we can retain these highly-educated students so they won’t leave the state for higher paying jobs.”

The five teams participating in this year’s competition include Mauldin High School, the Fred P. Hamilton Career Center in Seneca, Beaufort High School, Stratford High School in Goose Creek, and Bluffton High School.

The First Fuel Cells “Green Machine” program is a competition-based education system designed to encourage young minds to master hydrogen safety, fuel cell construction, applications and maintenance concepts. The competition requires teams to develop a fundamental understanding of fuel cell technologies and utilize their high school labs, corporate sponsor resources, and supporting college facilities to integrate fuel cell technology into a diverse mix of robots.

“It’s never too early to entice the future scientists of South Carolina. The Green Machine competition provides a great arena to put hydrogen and fuel cell technology into action,” said Bill Mahoney, SCRA CEO. “SCRA is happy to support and build on our initial 2006 investment with the Fuel Cell Alliance to further hydrogen technology in South Carolina.”

In the first “Green Machine” competition pilot competition, 30 teams from 20 states participated. The competition was a huge success and highlights of the game included Research & Development, Building & Testing a Fuel Cell/System, Game Design and Hydrogen Safe Game Floor, and the Insertion of a Fuel Cell System in a Competition Robot.

FirstFuelCells.com, a distributor of practical hydrogen fuel cells for personal and educational use, designed the competition to encourage young minds to master hydrogen fuel cells.

“It is our goal to advance the understanding and use of this clean and efficient energy source,” said Diane Sadowski, President of FirstFuelCells.com. “We truly believe that hydrogen and fuel

cells hold the key to a clean energy future, and we want young minds to learn how to use these new tools to build a cleaner tomorrow.”

“It is the perfect time for our youth to learn about fuel cells,” said Shannon Baxter-Clemmons, Executive Director of the SCHFCA. “They will have the opportunity to see them in action when Columbia hosts the National Hydrogen Association Conference in March when there will be an entire day open to the public where they can see some of this exciting technology up close and even test drive fuel cell cars.”

The 2009 National Hydrogen Association Conference and Hydrogen Expo will be held March 30 – April 3 at the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center in Columbia, SC. An estimated 1,500 attendees and 100 exhibitors will attend the National Hydrogen Association’s conference.

#### **About the South Carolina Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Alliance**

The South Carolina Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Alliance (SCHFCA) is a public-private collaboration for cooperative and coordinated utilization of resources in the state used to advance the commercialization of hydrogen and fuel cell technologies. Founded in January 2006, the SCHFCA was created by eight organizations devoted to hydrogen and fuel cell initiatives: The Center for Hydrogen Research, Clemson University, EngenuitySC, the Savannah River National Laboratory, the S.C. Department of Commerce, the South Carolina Research Authority, S.C. State University and the University of South Carolina. For more information about the SCHFCA, its members and their activities, please visit [www.schhydrogen.org](http://www.schhydrogen.org).

#### **About FirstFuelCells.com**

FirstFuelCells.com is a distributor of practical hydrogen fuel cells for personal and educational use. Hydrogen has the highest energy content per unit weight of any known fuel, and can be produced from a wide variety of abundant and renewable energy sources. It is our goal to advance the understanding and use of this clean and efficient energy source. We truly believe that hydrogen and fuel cells are the key to a clean energy future. To learn more about FirstFuelCells.com and its products visit [www.FirstFuelCells.com](http://www.FirstFuelCells.com).

#### **About South Carolina Research Authority**

SCRA is a global leader in applied research and commercialization services with offices in Anderson, Charleston and Columbia. SCRA collaborates to advance technology. SCRA provides technology-based solutions with assured outcomes on behalf of industry, government, and research universities like Clemson University, the University of South Carolina and the Medical University of South Carolina. For more information please see <http://www.scra.org/>.

#### **About SC Launch!**

SC Launch! an SCRA collaboration, assists entrepreneurial start-up companies with up-front counseling, seed-funding, and access to a powerful resource network. The SC Launch! mission is to help generate knowledge economy jobs in South Carolina, enhance the state’s quality of life and provide opportunity for all South Carolinians in the new economy. For more information, please visit <http://www.sclaunch.org/>.

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