

7,000 refuelings in 7 months; DLA acknowledged for use of hydrogen fuel cell technology

By Stacy L. Umstead, DDC Public Affairs

Department of Energy's Deputy Assistant Secretary for Renewable Energy, Jacques Beaudry-Losique recently recognized the Defense Distribution Center, or DDC, Defense Distribution Depot, Susquehanna, Pa., or DDSP, for its use of hydrogen fuel cell technology.

DDSP, the Defense Logistics Agency's, or DLA, Eastern Strategic Distribution Platform, was the first Department of Defense activity to deploy hydrogen fuel cell technology and since its implementation in February 2009, has refueled over 7,000 hydrogen fuel cell forklifts in seven months.

Hydrogen, the fuel of choice for most fuel cell applications, is

poised to be the cleanest supply of energy and can be generated from a range of renewable sources and emits predominantly water vapor when converted to energy. Fuel cells function like a battery; with external fuel (hydrogen) being supplied rather than the use of stored electricity.

"Today's event commemorates a significant milestone for



Commemorating 7,000 refuelings, Department of Energy Deputy, or DOE, Assistant Secretary for Renewable Energy, Jacques Beaudry-Losique presents a plaque to Defense Distribution Center commander, United States Marine Corps Brig. Gen. Peter J. Talleri. Also pictured, DOE Hydrogen Fuel Cell and Infrastructure Technologies Acting Program Manager, Dr. Sunita Satyapal (Left) and Defense Energy Support Center Director, Mr. Kim Huntley.

government adoption of fuel cell technology. The Defense Logistics Agency is widely recognized within the government and across the hydrogen and fuel cell industry as a leader in the demonstration and use of fuel cells for material handling,” said Beaudry-Losique. “We are proud to partner with DoD and DLA on this effort and will continue to look for ways to encourage others to follow DLA’s lead.

Kim Huntley, Director for DLA’s Defense Energy Support Center,

addressed the more than 100 people in attendance to the ceremony, many of which were from private industry, “As the Federal government, we are often early adopters of innovative energy solutions; and we know we are successful when industry is eager to adopt our model.

DDC is a proven model and best practice for hydrogen fuel cell initiatives.”

During the ceremony, which took place in DDSP’s Eastern Distribution Center’s Air Lines of Communications pallet build area, DDC commander, United States Marine Corps Brig. Gen. Peter Talleri emphasized DDC’s commitment to use of alternative fuels, “The air pallets you see around you are air pallets destined for Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines located in Afghanistan, Iraq, Kuwait and other locations in Southwest Asia,” said Talleri. “The hard working men and women of DDSP are proudly moving this material quickly and efficiently and they are moving it using forklifts powered with hydrogen fuel cell technology. In addition to our efforts at DDSP, DDC



A Defense Distribution Depot Susquehanna, Pa., or DDSP, employee driving a hydrogen fuel cell powered forklift refuels and prepares to enter the ceremonial area commemorating the 7,000 refueling at DDSP.

is moving forward with the pilots planned for our distribution centers in Warner Robins, Ga. and San Joaquin, Calif.”

At the Defense Distribution Depot Warner Robins, Ga., where their mission is evolving, DDC has already begun construction on the forklift project where we will replace 20 electric and propane units with hydrogen fuel cell powered forklifts by Spring, 2010.

At the Defense Distribution Depot San Joaquin, Calif., DLA’s Western Strategic Distribution Platform, planning is underway to deploy 20 new fuel cell forklifts to replace propane powered units. The project’s infrastructure will create hydrogen on site, using solar power to electrolyze water.

Concluding the commemorative event, DDSP representatives refueled a hydrogen fuel cell forklift and with a “choir” of forklift horns, the forklift broke through a 7,000 Refuelings in 7 months banner entering the ceremonial area to a round of applause!



Department of Energy, Assistant Secretary for Renewable Energy, Jacques Beaudry-Losique refuels a hydrogen fuel cell powered forklift. Looking on (left to right), DDC commander, United States Marine Corps Brig. Gen. Peter J. Talleri, DDC deputy commander, Senior Executive Service member, William Budden and Defense Energy Support Center Director, Senior Executive Service member, Mr. Kim Huntley.