

# Visit report of Hannover Messe 2016

By Philippe LOYER  
Market Analyst, Infinergia Consulting  
May 2016

---

In this article, we summarize our visit at Hannover Messe, one the biggest industrial events worldwide, with a focus on hydrogen and fuel cell industry.

*Keywords: Hannover Messe, Back-up, Off-grid, fair, Hydrogen, Hydrogen mobility, Hydrogen storage, Electrolysis, Combined Heat & Power (CHP).*

---

This year, we came back to the largest European Industrial fair - the Hannover Messe. This German show took place from 25 to 29<sup>th</sup> of April 2016. Some key facts to introduce the size of the event: around 200,000 visitors, 5,200 exhibitors on 200 000 sqm divided into 30 halls. Highlights of this 2016 edition were the 4<sup>th</sup> industrial revolution and the partnership with the USA with the opening of this edition by Barack Obama and Angela Merkel.

We focused our attention on the H2fc-exposition (hall 27), which looked at hydrogen, fuel cells and batteries. It featured 160 exhibitors from 25 countries over 5,000 sqm. A large majority of whom (140) addressed the field of hydrogen and fuel cells. The strength of this event is that it brings together most of the key players of the field of hydrogen technology, from production up to its use in fuel cell including component, sub-system and system manufacturers.

Among all the exhibitors, the presence of leaders in the field was noted. We can mention Ballard & Solid Power for fuel cells, ITM Power & Hydrogenics for electrolysers and for storage manufacturers such as McPhy or AREAVA H2-gen with its new LOHC (liquid organic hydrogen carriers) technology.

In fact, the large majority of the exhibitors are well established in the hydrogen market. However, two new companies were also present at the exhibition: mPower and H2Sys. The former is a German startup created in 2015 to commercialize an innovative SOFC stack from Plansee and IKTS Fraunhofer. The latter is H2Sys, a spin off from French R&D institute FCLAB that develops hybrid hydrogen generators.

Who was missing in the event? Bloom Energy, the leader of SOFC fuel cell was absent from the exhibition despite the partnership with the US and the presence of more than 20 American companies in H2fc-fair - what a pity! There was also no micro fuel cell actor such as Ezelleron, MyFc or Intelligent Energy, as the event was oriented towards industry while they focus on consumer, this made sense indeed.

The event also covered a wide range of fuel cell applications. Of course, as was the case in the 2015 edition, hydrogen mobility and the CHP (Combined Heat & Power) applications were well represented with key players such as Air Liquide and Linde for hydrogen stations and members of the (En.field) program (e.g. Vaillant, Viessman and so on). But, there were many more actors dedicated to industrial and niche applications, among whom SFC Efoy, which introduced its latest off-grid system for security based on their DMFC technology; New Enerday showcased its last Power Trailer based on SOFC technology for temporary installations; Tropical SA and Palcan also put forward their back-up power solution for the telecom industry. Finally, Powercell presented its prototype of the P3, a fuel cell combined to a reformer intended to power off-grid sites in Africa today fueled by diesel.

Overall, one of the most positive aspects from the event is the increasing number of commercialized systems. It demonstrates the steady progress in maturity of the fuel cell industry. The next challenge for this industry is to progress on the automation of the production processes to make the technology more competitive. Maybe with the help of the 4th industrial revolution!

Thanks for reading it and don't hesitate to contact us for more information on fuel cells and their applications.