



Hart Energy Consulting, 4545 Post Oak Place, Suite 210, Houston, Texas 77027-3105, USA • (1) 713 993-9320 • Fax (1) 713 840-0923

Contact: Jeff Miller
Corporate Director of Marketing
Hart Energy Publishing, LP
(1) 713 993-9325 ext. 127, jmiller@hartenergy.com

IFQC Members Launch Synthetic Fuels Alliance in Europe to Lay Out Common Vision of Sustainable Mobility

BRUSSELS, BELGIUM (March 7, 2006) - - - Five members of Hart Energy Consulting's International Fuel Quality Center (IFQC), representing both automakers and fuel suppliers, have united to promote synthetic fuels in Europe by forming The Alliance for Synthetic Fuels in Europe (ASFE).

The five founding members of the ASFE include DaimlerChrysler, Renault, Royal Dutch Shell, Sasol Chevron and the Volkswagen group. The new organization will address the strategic role of synthetic fuels in tackling today's energy and environmental challenges and reducing the environmental impact of road transport through improved energy efficiency and the use of cleaner fuels.

At a conference held in Brussels and attended by European Commissioners Günter Verheugen and Andris Piebalgs and Austrian Minister for Environment Josef Pröll, leading automotive manufacturers and fuel supply companies discussed their common vision of sustainable mobility in Europe.

"The main thrust of ASFE is to expedite energy diversification and dieselization in the EU," said Sandrine Dixson-Declève, IFQC Executive Director for Europe and Africa and moderator of the panel discussion. "The push toward diesel will provide a 'quick fix' to our more immediate problem. Right now there is a great need for diesel fuel in Europe, and ASFE can address not only that specific problem, but other issues on a much larger scale."

The objectives of ASFE are to promote synthetic fuels and support a range of activities in the field of sustainable mobility including research, projects demonstrating the benefits of synthetic fuels including vehicle trials, cooperation with governments and promotion of public awareness.

Through a series of discussions, ASFE members stated their shared commitment to reducing the environmental impact of road transport through improved engine technology and cleaner fuels. ASFE members intend to show how synthetic fuels can contribute to improved security of supply and to a sustainable transport future.

-more-

Synthetic fuels are a new generation of near zero sulphur and aromatics transport fuels made with the Fischer Tropsch process from natural gas (GTL), coal (CTL) or biomass (BTL). Of the three processes, GTL is the most commercially advanced and offers a practical alternative fuel today. A number of plants are being built or planned and product availability will increase from 2006 onwards. BTL needs further R&D investment but has the potential to use domestic resources in Europe.

Greenhouse gas emissions associated with synthetic fuels derived from natural gas are comparable with transport fuels made from crude oil, while those produced from biomass can contribute to greenhouse gas reduction of up to 90%. As synthetic fuels can be used neat or blended in existing diesel engines, distribution and refueling infrastructure, they are the most cost effective solution to reducing petroleum dependency. Synthetic fuels can provide significant local air quality improvement by reducing tailpipe emissions (particulate matter, nitrogen oxides, carbon monoxide and hydrocarbons).

Hart Energy Consulting is a subsidiary of Hart Energy Publishing, LP, one of the world's largest energy industry publishers, with a diverse array of informational products and services and is a leading information, analysis and communication resource for the worldwide downstream energy industry. Multi-client consulting services include the IFQC, Biofuels and World Refining & Fuels Services to 2020. IFQC is a globally acknowledged cooperation of 105 leading member companies representing the refining, automotive, policy makers and technology providers. Their mission is to keep members abreast of any developments regarding transportation fuel quality developments required for their planning and strategy management of refined products. IFQC is a non-advocacy organization advising its members and helping to support Environmental Protection Agencies across the globe.

Headquartered in Houston, with offices in New York, London, Washington, Brussels, Bahrain, Singapore, Mexico City and Moscow, Hart Energy Publishing's market-leading publications include *Oil and Gas Investor*, *E&P* and *PipeLine & Gas Technology*. Hart also produces newsletters, custom publishing products, conferences, and a unique multi-and single-client consulting services.

For information about Hart's services, please visit us online: www.hartenergy.com. Sandrine Dixson-Decleve can be contacted at +32 2 661 3080 or by email at sdixson@ifqc.org

#