

FCET demonstrates fuel-cell technology at Catawba College in Salisbury



Mikhail Pozvonkov, FCET executive vice president and chief scientist, shows a fuel cell to Catawba College faculty members and a student.

Executives of a small Atlanta-area fuel-cell company say they're pleased with demonstrations of their technology in the Charlotte area last week.

During demonstrations at Catawba College on Friday, FCET Inc. showed how hydrogen could be turned into electricity, even at room temperature, says Paul Fisher, FCET chairman.

"FCET's fuel cell demonstrated the ability to produce emission-free electricity at 57 degrees, very far below the industry standard for its type of 1,100 to 1,650 degrees," he says.

During the demonstration last week at Catawba College, FCET also showed a 1,100-degree test that produced more electricity, Fisher says.

FCET, short for Fuel Cell Enabling Technologies, says it's considering the Salisbury area for a production facility. That plant would make the fuel cell and could eventually employ 200, Fisher says. Production of the modules could start as soon as 2018, Fisher says.

For now, FCET officials are touring the Southeast looking for investors to help finance the fuel-cell project. Fisher believes he needs a minimum of \$2 million to launch the project and would like to have \$5 million in financing to support a quicker rollout of the fuel cell to commercial production.

Charlotte area economic development officials and local energy experts have said they're

encouraged by FCET's designs and plans to bring the machines into production.

The fuel cells are designed by Mike Pozvonkov and are named the "Poz Cell," for the Russian native who is also FCET's executive vice president and chief scientist.

Pozvonkov ran the Catawba College demonstration last week, which were attended by members of the college faculty, students, energy experts and local government leaders.

A planned demonstration last year in Rowan County was called off when administrators at the site expressed concern over the high temperatures needed for one of the tests.

Fisher says FCET's planned facility in Rowan County could have a "good impact" for technology sharing and employment for faculty and students at Catawba College.

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