



FREEDOMCAR: THE PARTNERSHIP TO DEVELOP AMERICA'S HYDROGEN ECONOMY OF THE FUTURE

Americans treasure their mobility, placing a very high value on the right to choose what, where, and when they drive. Recognizing those realities, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and the U.S. Council for Automotive Research (USCAR) announced in January 2002 a new cooperative research effort between the DOE and USCAR (comprised of automakers Ford, General Motors, and DaimlerChrysler). Known as FreedomCAR (for Freedom Cooperative Automotive Research), the new partnership replaces and builds upon the Partnership for a New Generation of Vehicles (PNGV) initiative that ran from 1993 through 2001.

FreedomCAR represents the DOE's commitment to developing public/private partnerships to fund high-risk, high-payoff research into advanced automotive technologies. Efficient fuel cell technology, which uses hydrogen to power automobiles without air pollution is a very promising pathway to achieve the ultimate vision.

The goal of the Partnership is the development of cars and trucks that are:

- Cheaper to operate
- Pollution-free
- Competitively priced
- Free from imported oil

Why Do We Need FreedomCAR?

Did you know that America's transportation sector depends on petroleum for 95% of its fuel, and that transportation accounts for 67% of our nation's petroleum use? The steady growth of imported oil needed to meet U.S. requirements—to current levels of approximately 10 million barrels of imported oil each day—may not be sustainable over the long term.

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), fuel cells are 2-3 times more efficient than today's internal combustion engines in converting fuel to power. The DOE has determined that a promising approach to reducing our nation's consumption of petroleum is the development of hydrogen-powered fuel cell vehicles and the hydrogen-supply infrastructure needed to support them.

Because no single effort will accomplish these objectives, FreedomCAR is a multi-tiered approach that includes:

- Development of technologies needed to mass-produce affordable hydrogen-powered fuel cell vehicles and ensure the infrastructure to support them
- Continued support for technologies that dramatically reduce oil consumption and environmental impacts
- Investment in technologies that can be applied across a wide range of vehicles, not just single classes of vehicles

What Benefits Will FreedomCAR Bring?

Through dedicated cooperative research and development partnerships between government and industry, FreedomCAR will work to provide Americans with:

- Freedom from petroleum dependence
- Freedom from pollutant emissions
- Freedom to choose the vehicles they want
- Freedom to drive where they want, when they want
- Freedom to obtain fuel more affordably and conveniently

For more information, contact:

Ed Wall
FreedomCAR Partnership Coordinator
U.S. Department of Energy
202-586-0410
ed.wall@ee.doe.gov