

Please take a moment to read the latest news from South Carolina's knowledge economy.

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Midlands Tech Launches Next Generation Fuel Cell Program



Midlands Technical College (MTC) is a force to be reckoned with in South Carolina. As one of three anchors in the SC Technical College

system, they have played a vital role in our state's business recruiting activities. Now Midlands Tech is expanding that aim by creating a world class fuel cell technology training program for technologists/technicians. Midlands Tech was awarded a \$62,000 grant by the Greater Columbia Fuel Cell Challenge. The Fuel Cell Challenge, now in its second phase, is one of several groundbreaking programs that have put Columbia on the map for hydrogen and fuel cells. Neil McLean, Executive Director, EngenuitySC said, "We are excited about the MTC investment. It will help us build the nation's best hydrogen fuel cell workforce right here in South Carolina. Additionally, this program will further strengthen our growing portfolio of market-based resources for attracting and retaining the nation's top hydrogen and fuel cell companies into our region."

The saying holds that industry goes where opportunity exists. In a growing industry like fuel cells, market opportunities are just one ingredient in the recipe for success for many companies. Other essential ingredients for company start-ups or relocations include: the quality of facilities, the access to capital, the start-up and commercialization services and the availability of a technically savvy workforce. The reality is that the "knowledge economy" in our region requires not only top level scientists,

Calling all Entrepreneurs, Innovators and Really, Really Smart People- New Carolina Needs You!



EngenuitySC's regional strategic partner, New Carolina, is back again. Last year you heard the call. You unleashed your creativity. You inspired us with your ideas for a greater South Carolina. Now it's time again for us to help you turn your ideas into reality. New Carolina, SC Launch! and ThinkTEC have launched the third annual New Ideas for a New Carolina contest. They are looking for ideas for businesses that stoke your fire, blow your mind and show your get-up-and-take-charge-of-my-dream spirit. Your idea could bring new jobs, new energy, new talent, new life and new wealth to South Carolina. The contest is now open, and submissions will be accepted until May 1st.

About New Ideas for a New Carolina

An idea out of the Charleston Metro Chamber of Commerce to promote the FastTracSC program, **New Ideas for a New Carolina** and the 2008 contest is powered by New Carolina and its partners: **FastTracSC, ThinkTEC, SwampFox, NEXT, the Florence Chamber of Commerce and SCLaunch!**, the contest's main sponsor, as well as a number of other state and local organizations with a shared vision for a brighter future for South Carolina.

For more information visit the New Carolina website:
www.newideassc.com.

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entrepreneurs and professionals, but also a host of technologists and technicians to support the creation of intellectual capital and its commercialization.

The MTC fuel cell program represents the next step in our region's fuel cell commercialization strategy which may be tapped into sooner than we think. With local start-ups like Hydrogen Hybrid Mobility, Boroscience and recent announcements from companies like Gecko Energy Technologies, the demand for technical personnel is becoming a reality.

Increase your H2IQ with the NHA's "H2 and You Campaign"

If you are interested in hydrogen, fuel cells, technology or just innovative entrepreneurial opportunities, please read on. Just when you thought the federal government had written off hydrogen as a potential energy mechanism for the future, South Carolina's own U.S. Rep. Bob Inglis helped pull the topic back into the spotlight. The energy measure, which the House passed in late 2007 on a 314-100 vote, authorizes the federal government to give tens of millions of dollars to winners of a new prize aimed at speeding the development and widespread use of hydrogen-fueled cars. South Carolina, especially Columbia, has made the pursuit of hydrogen fuel cell technology a building block for the state's future economy. The state could be in line to claim some of that money.



"We can clean up the air, we can create jobs and we can improve the national security of the United States by reducing our energy dependency on foreign fuels," said Inglis, a Greenville Republican completing his fifth House term. Separate provisions Inglis also included in the energy bill require most federal government buildings and other installations to use energy-efficient lights.

The cost of producing and transporting has slowed the development of hydrogen-powered cars in the United States, as has the weight and size of hydrogen fuel cells for cars.

But Honda, BMW and General Motors are spending billions of dollars on hydrogen vehicle prototypes. Inglis said his "H-Prize" idea will accelerate momentum toward such cars by establishing prestigious awards carrying large cash payments to winners. "We want teams of entrepreneurs and inventors pushing themselves," Inglis said. See the full article at: www.thestate.com.

The Knowledge Economy can be fun! Ask Voidstar

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Creation



If you have not played it yet, you have to try Poker Smash. Whether you are "patriotic" (developer is a Midlands company) or

you have been swallowed up in the poker phenomenon sweeping the country, you have to try Poker Smash . On February 6th, independent video game developer, Void Star Creations, launched their debut title, Poker Smash, on Xbox LIVE® Arcade on the Xbox 360 - to rave reviews. They have received national recognition from multiple gaming magazines, and the game was rated a 9 out of 10 by Xbox Magazine.

Even more amazing is that this three person company is a technology start-up based in Lexington, S.C. Void Star was founded in early 2006 with the simple mission to deliver high quality games that are first and foremost fun to play. With three team members educated in S.C., Void Star leverages local talent to develop products for the \$30 Billion global video game industry. For their first title, Void Star partnered with Microsoft to launch Poker Smash exclusively on the Xbox 360. As the premier destination for digitally distributed, high-definition games, Xbox LIVE® Arcade on the Xbox 360 boasts millions of game downloads with a diverse library of titles from the world's best independent and established game developers and publishers. Void Star hopes to expand what gamers expect from independent developers with Poker Smash. An action packed puzzler with a poker twist, Poker Smash delivers with over 30 minutes of original music set against stunning visuals. The company has been working diligently for three years to create its team, raise capital and commercialize a product in one of the most intense, competitive environments on the planet - gaming. Hats off to Drew and Rachel Card for hitting a start-up pinnacle.

For more information, visit www.pokersmashgame.com.

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