

## NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### HYDROGEN HIGHWAY FUELLING STATION OPENS IN VICTORIA

**Victoria, BC – December 1, 2006** —The Honourable Gary Lunn, Minister of Natural Resources, officially launched the Victoria fuelling station, which is the newest addition to BC's Hydrogen Highway™.

BOC Gases, a subsidiary of the Linde Group, together with BC Hydro, completed the construction of the anchor fuelling station at BC Transit's Langford facility near Victoria. The Victoria station is set up to dispense fuel to support one of the Vancouver Fuel Cell Vehicle Program's fuel-cell vehicle, which is operated by BC Transit and the Province of BC in the Victoria region.

Natural Resources Canada, through the Canadian Transportation Fuel Cell Alliance, contributed \$480,000 to the project. The permanent facility cost of construction and initial operation is \$1,006,628.

"We are very proud to be involved in the opening of the Victoria Hydrogen Fuelling Station," said Minister Lunn. "It's a key step towards the successful completion of the hydrogen highway and another way Canada's New Government is demonstrating its commitment to clean energy as part of our environmental approach for clean air."

The Victoria Station uses a three-tiered storage bank of low-, medium- and high-pressure storage cylinders. As the Victoria hydrogen vehicle fleet expands, additional storage cylinders can be added to support the incremental load of next-generation fuel-cell vehicles.

"The opening of the Victoria hydrogen refuelling station reinforces our position as a world leader in the development of alternative energy projects," said Richard Neufeld, Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources. "The Hydrogen Highway showcases British Columbia's hydrogen fuel cell technology and demonstrates our commitment to hydrogen fuel cells as a zero-emission transportation solution."

BC Transit has begun to forge a path ahead with hydrogen-fuelled transportation. The province-wide transit authority has recently issued a request for proposals to develop pre-production hydrogen fuel-cell buses that could be used for commercial use. The project

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will demonstrate the integration of hydrogen fuel-cell buses into the regular operational service of an urban transit system. This fleet deployment will allow BC Transit to monitor operations, maintenance and fuelling over a sustained period.

“Transit is a logical place to implement hydrogen technology due to the centralized service where buses fuel from a central facility,” said Mayor Don Amos, Chair of the Victoria Regional Transit Commission. “Operating the Ford fuel cell car was a natural precursor to the proposal, as it helps BC Transit staff learn more about fuel cell and hydrogen technology.”

“The Victoria Station is an excellent demonstration of the practical deployment of existing and advanced technology in innovative ways to realize safe, reliable, and economically feasible hydrogen fuelling solutions,” said Dr. Joachin Wolf, Executive Director of Hydrogen Solutions, The Linde Group.

In addition to Natural Resources Canada, the project was made possible with financial support from BOC Gases, a company of the Linde group, and BC Hydro.

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#### CONTACTS:

Ghyslain Charron, Media Relations, Natural Resources Canada  
Ottawa 613-992-4447

Kathleen Olson, Acting Director of Communications, Office of the Minister  
Natural Resources Canada  
Ottawa 613-996-2007

Elisha Moreno, BC Hydro Media Relations  
Vancouver 604-623-4099

Jake Jacobs, Public Affairs Officer, Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources  
Victoria 250-213-6934 (cell)

## Background

# HYDROGEN HIGHWAY FUELLING STATION OPENS IN VICTORIA

## Project Description

BOC Gases, a subsidiary of the Linde Group, and BC Hydro constructed an anchor fuelling station at BC Transit's Langford facility near Victoria. The Victoria Station, part of BC's Hydrogen Highway, also supports the Vancouver Fuel Cell Vehicle Program's Victoria-based Ford Focus fuel cell vehicle, which is operated by BC Transit and the Province. B.C. based Powertech Labs operates and maintain the station.

The Victoria Station utilizes a three-tiered storage bank of low, medium and high pressure storage cylinders. As the hydrogen vehicle fleet expands in the Victoria region, additional storage cylinders can be added to support the incremental load. The fuelling system has the capability, with minimal additions, to fuel the next-generation of fuel cell vehicles which may have higher pressure fuel storage cylinders on board.

This Hydrogen Highway project was made possible with financial support from BOC/Linde Gases, Natural Resources Canada's Canadian Transportation Fuel Cell Alliance (CTFCA) and BC Hydro.

## About the Project Partners

### BOC/Linde Gases

BOC/Linde Gases is one of the largest and most global of the world's leading gas companies. For over a century, BOC/Linde's gases and expertise have contributed to advances in the efficiency of many industries and aspects of everyday life, including steel-making, refining, chemical processing, environmental protection, wastewater treatment, welding and cutting, food processing and distribution, glass production, electronics, health care and sustainable energy solutions. The company has the experience and capabilities to supply hydrogen through every available mode of distribution, including as liquid via tankers and as gas via pipelines, tube trailers, and cylinders.

### Natural Resources Canada's Canadian Transportation Fuel Cell Alliance

The Canadian Transportation Fuel Cell Alliance is a \$33 million federal government initiative to develop and implement the fuelling infrastructure for fuel cell vehicles in Canada. The CTFCA plays a key role in the development of the Hydrogen Highway in British Columbia and continues to be a prime source of funding support. In addition, the working groups of the CTFCA are involved with the Hydrogen Highway on codes and standards, mobile applications and fuelling station development, as well as the communications and information transfer needed to advance the industry.

### BC Hydrogen Highway

The BC Hydrogen Highway is a destination and showcase – a place where people can see and experience hydrogen and fuel cell technology in action. The developing Hydrogen Highway network includes not only Hydrogen Highway refuelling stations, but also mobile, stationary, portable and micro-fuel cell applications throughout British Columbia's southwest corner. The Hydrogen Highway's mission is to enable and advance the use of Canadian hydrogen and fuel cell technologies.

**BC Hydro**

Home of the renowned Power Smart energy conservation program, BC Hydro is a crown corporation serving more than 1.6 million customers through a network of hydroelectric facilities on the Peace and Columbia Rivers.

**BC Transit**

BC Transit is the provincial crown agency charged with coordinating the delivery of public transportation throughout British Columbia (outside the Greater Vancouver Regional District). BC Transit is taking a leadership role to demonstrate, refine and showcase hydrogen and fuel cell technology as part of the global collective commitment to realize alternative fuel applications. Involvement in the BC Hydrogen Highway and the Vancouver Fuel Cell Vehicle Program enables BC Transit to learn about hydrogen technology infrastructure and hydrogen as an alternative fuel for future public transit use.

**Powertech Labs Inc.**

Powertech Labs Inc. is a wholly owned subsidiary of BC Hydro, and is recognized internationally for its expertise in testing compressed hydrogen fuel storage systems used on-board vehicles, and for its design and operation of hydrogen fill stations and fuel delivery systems.