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ground handling INTERNATIONAL

TAKING PRIDE IN GROUND HANDLING

New GHI Awards initiative will celebrate
industry achievement



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HYDROGEN PROJECT LAUNCHED BY THE USAF

The United States Air Force has begun a new demonstration project that is focused on hydrogen fuel. To that end, a new hydrogen production facility has been set up at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam in Hawaii. The hydrogen produced at the facility has been deployed to power a variety of vehicles, all of which run on fuel cells. This initiative forms just a part of a bigger project that is seeking to explore the reality of using hydrogen.

The project is actually part of an agreement between the Air Force Research Laboratory and the Hawaii Centre for Advanced Transportation Technologies, which has been running for over a decade. In the latest development, a new mobile

hydrogen unit for storage, production and dispensing was upgraded in 2010, with a view to providing the hydrogen needed to test clean vehicles as part of initiatives launched by the Department of Defence.

Because of the interest in hydrogen shown by the armed forces, Hawaii has become a popular testing ground for fuel cell vehicles of various kinds. It is thought that fuel cell vehicles could assist the armed forces in becoming more environmentally friendly and less dependent on oil as a resource; moreover, fuel cells could also be used as primary energy providers in remote areas, significantly reducing the need for risky fuel deliveries to such locations.



BRASSICA-POWERED FLIGHT A SUCCESS

Following on from the news in the February edition of *Ground Handling International*, the first commercial flight making use of a new biofuel blend has been made by Qantas between the US and Australia. The Dreamliner flight linked Los Angeles to Melbourne, and carried around 24,000 kilograms of biofuel (representing about 10% of the total fuel on board) that had been processed from carinata, a non-food industrial oilseed crop previously developed

by Agrisoma Biosciences, in Canada.

As reported in the earlier issue, there appears to be great scope for the cultivation of this crop in Australia, where the climate is highly conducive to its growth. It is claimed that this biofuel can cut emissions by anything up to 80%, making it a prime contender for research into cleaner flying.

Qantas is now looking to further strengthen its links with biomaterials specialist Agrisoma.

Chicago scoops an emissions grant

An award of US\$640,000 has been granted to The Chicago Department of Aviation; this represents Diesel Emissions Reduction Act funding from the US Environmental Protection Agency.

This DERA grant will enable the airport, as well United Airlines, to invest US\$1.43m in a total of 26 new units of zero-emissions GSE, which will replace older, diesel-fuelled equipment.

It has been calculated that the total amount of emissions that will be saved would equate to the annual greenhouse gas emissions arising from 3,100 passenger vehicles.



SILENT ROLLING

Made by Hong Kong-based Easyroll Technology, this composite roller application has been taken up by several parties interested in more environmental solutions for the ramp. These include Hong Kong Airport Services, Jardine and Hactl, all of which are local enterprises; further afield, the likes of TLD, JBT, Skystar and SATS have also adopted the technology.

Whilst loading platform

rollers have traditionally been fabricated from aluminium, the Easyroll version for main deck and lower deck loaders is billed as both a cheaper and more resilient product.

These particular rollers do not shed particles during use and the noise levels produced when they are in operation are hugely reduced when compared to those of their metal counterparts.

A NEW FAR EASTERN ENERGY COALITION IS FORMED

HES Energy Systems, a fuel cell developer that is based in Singapore, is moving forward with its plans with three clean energy and aerospace technology companies in France. Together, these companies will form a coalition under the name of FLY-HY. The coalition will work to address issues concerning the world's hydrogen supply chain and promote effective energy storage solutions.

FLY-HY was officially launched at the 2018 Singapore Airshow.