

acers spotlight

First Inter-Society ACerS & ASM International Conference Proves Success Conference Follows Hydrogen Highway to Success

On Feb. 24-27, 2008, in Cocoa Beach, Fla., The American Ceramic Society and ASM International sponsored, "Materials Innovations in an Emerging Hydrogen Economy," the first-ever inter-society conference to address the role of the materials industry in developing and implementing alternative energy sources and a cleaner and safer environment.

More than 170 participants from 20 countries focused their attention on the conference's poster session, 17 technical sessions, 100 presentations, a ride-and-drive feature and networking activities.

Much of the event's success was due to the efforts of the conference's organizers, ACerS board member George Wicks (Savannah River National Laboratory) and past ASM International president Jack Simon (Technology Access). The conference was also endorsed and supported by the National Hydrogen Association and

Society for Advancement of Material and Process Engineering.

Two special international sessions were organized to provide participants "worldwide perspectives" on hydrogen research activities. Presenters hailed from the United States, the European Communities, Japan, Canada, China, Argentina, India and South Korea.

During a brief power failure attendees temporarily abandoned their classrooms and headed outside for the "ride and drive event," one of the conference's highlights. Three state-of-the-art

hydrogen-fueled cars provided courtesy of Ford and Toyota were



Conference attendees give rapt attention to a representative of Toyota, one of the event's sponsors, as he explains the workings of a hydrogen-fueled vehicle.

waiting outside and, in twos and threes, conference attendees climbed inside to take their test drives. ■

Refractories Symposium Investigates "Clues" to Success

On March 26-27, more than 129 participants gathered for the 44th Symposium on Refractories, sponsored by the St. Louis Section and Refractory Ceramics Division of The American Ceramics Society.

The symposium's theme, CSI Refractories, reflected the intention to investigate, analyze and ultimately solve the mystery of why some refractories succeed and others fail.

Chairman Bill Headrick (Missouri Refractories Co.), and Division Chair Mike Alexander (Riverside Refractories Inc.), welcomed attendees to the "investigation," while super sleuths and co-program coordinators, Len Krietz (Plibrico Co.) and James Hemrick (Oak Ridge National Lab), organized the hard-hitting program.

Presentations helped attendees track down clues, dissect the evidence and con-



Attendees had an opportunity to "ride-and-drive" hydrogen-fueled vehicles like Ford.