

PPL Completes Fuel Cell Installation for Zoot Enterprises

PRNewswire-FirstCall
BOZEMAN, Mont.

A PPL Corporation (NYSE: PPL) subsidiary has completed the installation of a clean, reliable fuel cell energy system for Zoot Enterprises' high-technology campus located eight miles west of Bozeman, Mont.

At a dedication ceremony today at Zoot's campus, PPL's distributed generation and energy services subsidiary said it has completed the development of two 250-kilowatt fuel cell systems, which use natural gas for fuel and produce electric power and hot water for heating and domestic uses.

FuelCell Energy of Danbury, Conn. (NASDAQ: FCEL), manufactured the fuel cells. PPL has an equity investment in FuelCell Energy and is a distributor of its fuel cells in the U.S.

"Until recently, fuel cell energy technology was not available commercially, and its practical use was very limited," said Michael E. Kroboth, president-PPL Energy Services Holdings. "However, fuel cells are now part of a growing range of environmentally friendly energy solutions that PPL is providing to our customers. PPL is proud to supply Zoot's campus with an efficient, reliable on-site fuel cell energy system."

The total value of the Zoot fuel cell project is \$3.8 million, with \$1.4 million provided in the form of a grant from the United States Department of Energy. U.S. senators Max Baucus and Conrad Burns were active supporters of the project and assisted in securing federal funding.

The campus, which ultimately is expected to include 14 commercial lots, is the site of Zoot's recently completed 155,000-square-foot headquarters building. The headquarters building will house 410 employees at full capacity, including an electronic data processing center that performs the company's core business functions.

Zoot is using the fuel cell power plant system in conjunction with the electric grid to meet the primary electrical requirements of its building and to support future development at the campus.

"We are thrilled with the success of the fuel cell project," said Chris Nelson, president and CEO of Zoot Enterprises. "Fuel cells provide very reliable power, which is vital to our business. More importantly, they have an extremely low impact on the environment -- which is important to us personally. Our partnership with PPL and FuelCell Energy has allowed us to be part of something that will have a lasting impact."

"Zoot's innovative thinking recognized early on the value of critical power, which led to the installation of these DFC power plants we are dedicating today," said Herbert T. Nock, senior vice president of marketing and sales for FuelCell Energy. "After the recent northeastern U.S. blackout, we expect many other businesses to follow Zoot's example, utilizing our products to assure critical power needs are met while relieving load from a congested grid."

Fuel cells generate electricity with no combustion. They are, in effect, like large, continuously operating batteries that generate electricity as long as a source of hydrogen, such as natural gas, is supplied. Since the natural gas is not burned, pollution commonly associated with the combustion of fossil fuels is dramatically reduced. The technology is similar to that which helps power NASA's space shuttle.

Demonstrating its commitment to clean power and the environment, PPL has a number of other fuel cell projects in various stages of development with a variety of customers:

- * In May, a fuel cell power plant at the U. S. Coast Guard Air Station in Bourne, Mass., began commercial operation.
- * In early August, a fuel cell power plant at Starwood Hotels and Resorts' Sheraton Edison in New Jersey began commercial operation. A second plant at another Starwood property in New Jersey will begin commercial operation the end of September.

- * Ocean County College in Toms River, N.J., will install a 250-kilowatt fuel cell later this year to provide heat and electricity to several buildings on the campus.
- * PPL has signed a financial assistance agreement with the Connecticut Clean Energy Fund for a fuel cell project at an industrial site in Bloomfield, Conn.
- * PPL has received grant approval from the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority and is working to develop a fuel cell project in the New York metropolitan area.

Zoot Enterprises was founded in 1990 to meet the needs of the financial industry for credit verification and banking software. Zoot's ASP environment now brings its inventive and innovative approach to loan origination systems. The company has partnered with industry leaders to offer an integrated best-of-breed solution. Zoot currently processes credit information for seven of the top 10 credit grantors in the United States.

FuelCell Energy Inc. (www.fuelcellenergy.com), Danbury, Conn., is a world- recognized leader for the development and commercialization of high-efficiency fuel cells for electric power generation. The company is developing Direct FuelCell® technology for stationary power plants with the U.S. Department of Energy through the National Energy Technology Laboratory, whose advanced fuel cell research program is focused on developing a new generation of high-performance fuel cells that can generate clean electricity at power stations or in distributed locations near the customer, including hospitals, schools, universities, and other commercial and industrial applications.

PPL Montana, a subsidiary of PPL Corporation, has offices in Billings, Butte and Helena. With more than 500 employees, PPL Montana operates the coal-fired Colstrip and Corette power plants and 11 hydroelectric facilities along the Missouri, Flathead, Clark Fork and Madison rivers and Rosebud Creek. PPL EnergyPlus, another PPL subsidiary, operates a trading floor in Butte that markets and sells power in the wholesale energy market.

PPL Corporation, headquartered in Allentown, Pa., controls or owns nearly 11,500 megawatts of generating capacity in the United States, sells energy in key U.S. markets, and delivers electricity to customers in Pennsylvania, the United Kingdom and Latin America.

SOURCE: PPL Corporation

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