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Editorial

The Seventh Grove Fuel Cell Symposium was held at the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre in London from 11th to 13th September 2001. The high priority currently being afforded world-wide fuel cell research was clearly reflected in an extremely strong programme, which featured some 46 oral presentations, 130 posters and an impressive line-up of fuel cell vehicles.

The conference covered a broad spectrum of both stationary and vehicular fuel cell topics, including the continuing concern to reduce costs, advanced materials selection for fuel cell stack manufacture, and military applications.

Some 60 of the papers offered for publication by the authors have been approved for inclusion in this special issue of Journal of Power Sources and these fairly represent the distribution of attention divided between pem fuel cells and high temperature types, and between mobile and stationary applications.

There is presently an enormous interest in the pursuit of fuel cell technologies: initially exploiting readily-available (hydrocarbon) fuels, and then moving on to the ultimate clean energy possibility of a “hydrogen world”. At the time of this conference there remain concerns over the cost of reforming hydrocarbon fuels to produce a sufficiently clean input for pem fuel cells, and the difficulties in reaching a practical system of hydrogen supply (infrastructure) and on-board storage.

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