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11 May 06 2535

House passes H-Prize bill

The House of Representatives passed the H-Prize Act, HR 5143, on May 10 by a wide margin of 416-6. The legislation, sponsored by Rep. Bob Inglis, R-SC, will establish a national prize competition to encourage the development of new technologies for hydrogen fuel cells.

“The bill’s rapid movement through the House shows that momentum is gathering toward a national commitment to the hydrogen economy. This is no science project. A hydrogen future is closer than we think,” said Inglis.

The H-Prize is modeled after the Ansari X-Prize, which led to the first private spaceflight. It will offer prizes in three categories to help overcome technical challenges to hydrogen.

Four prizes of up to \$1 million will be awarded every two years for technological advancement in the categories of hydrogen production, storage, distribution and utilization. Another prize of up to \$4 million will be awarded every two years for working hydrogen vehicle prototypes that meet ambitious performance goals. And one grand prize consisting of a \$10 million cash award, funded in whole or in part by federal contribution, will be awarded for “transformational technologies.”

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