



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Versa Power's High-Performance, Low-Cost Solid Oxide Fuel Cell Stacks Surpass 5000 Hours of Operation in Scale-Up to Commercial Size**

*Development work conducted under U.S. Department of Energy program yields a 10-fold increase in power while maintaining efficiency and stack life*

**LITTLETON, Colo. -- March 24, 2009** -- Versa Power Systems Inc., a leading developer of environmentally friendly Solid Oxide Fuel Cells (SOFC), today announced that a pair of electricity-producing stacks built for the U.S. Department of Energy have passed 5000 hours of continuous operation, an important reference point along the road to developing the technology on a commercial scale.

Each of Versa Power's SOFC stacks generates 10 kilowatts (kW) of clean, near-zero emission electricity. The research is a focus of DOE's Solid State Energy Conversion Alliance (SECA) program because fuel cells are one of the most attractive technologies for generating electricity from an environmental perspective. Their environmentally responsible emission profile, extremely high operating efficiencies and fuel flexibility enable their use in a wide range of applications.

In work under the SECA program conducted in collaboration with its partner FuelCell Energy, Inc., Versa Power validated the production methods planned for building SOFC stacks that will be incorporated in power plants; expanded the range of temperatures at which the stacks could operate; and passed an independent audit of the anticipated costs to manufacture systems on a commercial scale.

Based on success leading to this stage of the effort, DOE has approved the next phase of the program, which includes larger power output demonstrations, continued enhancements in its durability and efficiency, and further cost reduction.

"What's worth emphasizing here is that while we increased the stack's power 10-fold, we were able to maintain both its efficiency and its longevity," said Robert Stokes, Versa Power's CEO. "Our team did a tremendous job in achieving the program goals in only 22 months."

Solid oxide fuel cells are under investigation because they deliver substantial amounts of clean electricity for their size and weight in comparison to other power generating technologies. Additionally, they are highly efficient at converting fuel to energy while producing essentially zero regulated emissions. Their energy is produced continuously as long as the basic building blocks of fuel and air are supplied. Unlike most fuel cells, SOFCs can operate on wide range of fuel sources, including traditional fuels (like coal syngas, natural gas, propane or diesel) as well as renewables (such as ethanol, biodiesel or landfill/digester gas).

Versa Power will continue to run one of the two DOE stacks, demonstrating its ability to operate over longer periods. Systems incorporating one or more of Versa Power's 10 kW stacks -- especially when the heat they generate is captured for so-called Combined Heat and Power applications -- are projected to include hospitals, hotels, nursing care facilities and schools. In addition to more immediate commercialization opportunities, Versa Power is advancing steadily in providing the SOFC technology to achieve the DOE SECA goals for a cost effective high efficiency central generation coal plant with greater than 99 percent carbon capture, significantly reduced water consumption and near zero emissions.

#### **About Versa Power Systems**

Versa is a premier developer of environmentally friendly solid oxide fuel cells (SOFC), a clean-tech source of power that generates electricity for a range of applications. SOFC systems operate with virtually no emissions and at very high efficiency, making them invaluable for conserving natural resources and mitigating the impact energy production has on the ecosystem. With headquarters in Littleton, Colo., and development facilities in Calgary, Alberta, the company has built systems integral to research projects in collaboration with partners ranging from industrial concerns (Cummins Power Generation and FuelCell Energy), to government agencies (the U.S. Departments of Energy and Defense) and associations focused on energy research (EPRI and GTI). For more information, please see [www.versa-power.com](http://www.versa-power.com).

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