



HSU takes delivery of hydrogen-powered Prius

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Humboldt State University has taken delivery of a hydrogen-powered Toyota Prius that will use clean hydrogen fuel produced and dispensed at a new fueling station built by the campus's internationally recognized Schatz Energy Research Center.

The station, now in its test phase, will be California's first rural facility in a breakthrough initiative called the "Hydrogen Highway," whose importance is soaring in concert with world oil and gasoline prices.

Provided by the California Air Resources Board to encourage alternative transportation fuels, the Prius will be shared by HSU and other public agencies that have jointly supported the station project. The car was converted by Quantum Technologies of Irvine, Calif., to run on hydrogen gas.

According to HSU in a news release, the station is nearly complete and is undergoing final testing. It will produce enough hydrogen fuel to maintain a fleet of three or four hydrogen-powered cars. The Schatz Energy Research Center (SERC) is pursuing funding and vehicle suppliers to build a planned hydrogen car fleet.

A public dedication ceremony for the fueling station and car will take place at HSU on Thursday, Sept. 4.

SERC's close affiliation with HSU's premier Environmental Resources Engineering program provides opportunities for undergraduate and graduate engineering students to acquire hands-on experience with cutting-edge energy technologies.

The Center also provides scientific and educational opportunities to local youth. Under SERC's auspices, Arcata High School became one of the first institutions to participate in a hydrogen energy curriculum project in 2006, enabling chemistry students to learn about the chemistry of hydrogen and fuel cells. Arcata High students also assembled and tested their own miniature

hydrogen systems.

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