

NewsRelease

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U.S. FOODSERVICE–SAN FRANCISCO TO INSTALL METHANOL FUEL CELLS TO POWER WAREHOUSE PALLET JACKS

Cleaner technology to reduce energy use, carbon emissions while boosting productivity

SAN FRANCISCO, July 15, 2010 – As part of its ongoing commitment to conservation, U.S. Foodservice-San Francisco purchased 40 methanol fuel cells to power pallet jacks in its Livermore, Calif., food distribution facility. U.S. Foodservice expects to save 620,000 kilowatt-hours annually and reduce its carbon emissions by 540,000 pounds using the OorjaPac™ Model 3 units from Oorja Protonics. The company's green initiatives are a leading force within the food service industry.

Additionally, U.S. Foodservice is gaining significant operational efficiencies as the fuel cells eliminate the need for a battery swap mid-shift. This translates to an estimated four hours of productivity savings per day or about 920 hours per year, which greatly accelerates the return on investment.

"We are always trying to identify new ways to make every step of the path to the plate as environmentally friendly as possible," said Phil Collins, president of U.S. Foodservice-San Francisco. "Green technology is constantly evolving, providing us with opportunities to optimize our operations while dramatically reducing our impact on the environment. Environmental sustainability and continued economic growth should be a priority for every business."

Forty pallet jacks are being retrofitted with the methanol fuel cells. These fuel cells provide a constant charge that puts less strain on the jacks' electrical systems, which increases the jacks'

longevity. Methanol is an alternative liquid transportation fuel that is derived from various sources including wood, grass, landfills, natural gas and coal. The fuel cells generate electricity by converting the chemical energy stored in fuel into electrical and thermal energy. The byproducts of the electrochemical reaction are heat and pure water.

After a month-long trial period, U.S. Foodservice saw demonstrably increased productivity using the methanol fuel cells. With longer charges than traditional batteries, the fuel cells outlast their predecessors, running for a full eight hours, versus an average four to six hours.

Initially, methanol fuel for the OorjaPac fuel cells will be sourced locally through Oorja Protonics but options for U.S. Foodservice to “self-source” methanol through its own waste generation are also being explored.

“U.S. Foodservice’s leadership in implementing green solutions that are both good for the environment and good for business is an important step forward,” said Sanjiv Malhotra, founder and CEO of Oorja Protonics. “We are very pleased to be selected by them to help achieve these goals.”

About U.S. Foodservice

U.S. Foodservice is one of the country’s premier foodservice distributors, offering more than 43,000 national, private label and signature brand items and an array of services to its more than 250,000 customers. The company proudly employs 25,000 associates in more than 60 locations nationwide who are poised to serve customers beyond their expectations. As an industry leader, with access to resources beyond the ordinary, U.S. Foodservice provides the finest quality food and related products to neighborhood restaurants, hospitals, schools, colleges and universities, hotels, government entities and other eating establishments.

To find out how U.S. Foodservice can be ***Your partner beyond the plate®***, visit www.usfoodservice.com.

About Oorja Protonics

Founded in 2005, Oorja Protonics is the leader in providing reliable and economical liquid fuel cells for the material handling industry. By leveraging its breakthrough technologies, Oorja manufactures the most efficient and powerful portable liquid fuel cells that significantly reduce operating costs and green house gas emissions. The company is headquartered in Fremont, CA. For more information, visit www.oorjaprotonics.com.

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