



PRESS RELEASE

UFI Hydrogen unveils game-changing technology for sustainable green hydrogen and clean energy at Automechanika

Frankfurt, 10 September 2024 - UFI Filters, renowned as a leading company in the fields of filtration and thermal management, is presenting its technological innovations for the hydrogen sector at Automechanika in Frankfurt from 10 to 14 September 2024 – marking their European launch.

Founded in 1971 in the Italian province of Verona, the company is an established name and leader in filtration for the car, heavy-duty and agriculture markets. 95% of light vehicle manufacturers worldwide, including the major German car brands, rely on filter and thermal management systems from the UFI Filters Group, as do the manufacturers of 50% of the heavy-duty vehicles produced globally. UFI's product portfolio already includes air, oil, fuel, cabin, hydraulic and coolant filters, as well as heat exchangers for combustion engines, electric and hybrid vehicles.

Now, with the establishment of UFI Hydrogen, a new company, the group is driving forward the green revolution with innovative solutions designed to decarbonise the economy.

A commitment to sustainable innovation

UFI Hydrogen, founded in 2023, focuses on the development of Membrane Electrode Assemblies (MEAs) with Catalyst Coated Membranes (CCMs), crucial for Proton Exchange Membrane (PEM) electrolyzers. These MEAs enable efficient production of green hydrogen and its conversion into electricity, which can be used in various applications beyond fuel cells, including power generation, industrial processes and even domestic energy supply.

UFI Filters has been researching and developing products related to the use of hydrogen in fuel cells and the associated filtration requirements since 2017. This year, UFI Hydrogen was the only Italian company to be included in the IPCEI (Important Project of Common European Interest) Hy2Move programme. Under this programme, the European Commission is supporting projects promoting hydrogen mobility with up to 1.4 billion euros of state aid.

Giorgio Girondi, Chairman of the UFI Filters Group, explains: "At UFI, our mission is to significantly contribute to decarbonisation in Europe and beyond. Leveraging more than 50 years of expertise in filter technology, we aim to advance the production of green hydrogen and its conversion into clean energy. The core elements for these processes are catalysed membranes. I am excited to unveil these at Automechanika. UFI MEAs adhering to UFI Filters' high quality standards, represent a significant leap towards the cost-



PRESS RELEASE

effective production of green hydrogen and hydrogen-based energy solutions, as well as making a relevant contribution to the REPowerEU strategy.”

Backed by the European Union’s IPCEI Hy2Move project, the Chairman states the importance of this innovation programme to the UFI Group: “We are proud to be part of the EU’s IPCEI Hy2Move project and will do everything we can to live up to the innovative ambitions of the programme. By 2028, we will invest around 50 million euros in UFI Hydrogen and create up to 100 new jobs in this business area. Moreover, we have signed an agreement with the province of Trento to jointly invest 4 million euros in innovative research projects for electrolyser membranes.”

The membranes are crucial for both the electrochemical separation of hydrogen and oxygen from water, and the catalytic conversion of hydrogen into electricity.

Marco Lazzaroni, CEO of UFI Hydrogen, comments: “UFI Hydrogen is making its European debut at Automechanika with its two, innovative MEA technologies. MEA UFI.Iridium™ allows the production of green hydrogen from water electrolysis. MEA UFI.Platinum™ is equally essential for the transformation of green hydrogen into electricity, by recombining green hydrogen with oxygen in PEM fuel cells.”

UFI Hydrogen is continuously developing its MEA technology. At the same time, the company is promoting the cost-efficient production and utilisation of green hydrogen, as well as the development of green fuels for the next generation of green mobility.

Serial production of UFI Hydrogen can begin from 2025, Lazzaroni announces: “A 14,000 sq m production facility for the manufacture of MEA Technology is due to open at the end of this year in Serravalle in the province of Trento, Italy. UFI Hydrogen MEAs are based on ‘made-in-Italy’ technology, know-how and industrialisation, while also backed by the UFI Group’s significant industrial footprint in China. An extensive 5,000 square metres of the new UFI GREEN plant in Jiaxing will be dedicated to UFI Hydrogen business, thanks to our agreement with our joint venture partner Sinopec, the largest oil and petrochemical company in the Far East.”

In addition to hydrogen-related innovations, the UFI Filters Group is presenting its comprehensive filtration technology and thermal management solutions at Automechanika 2024.

UFI can be found at Automechanika 2024 in Hall 5.0, Stand C77.



PRESS RELEASE

UFI Filters:

Founded in 1971, UFI Filters is a global leader in filtration technology and thermal management solutions, as well as hydrogen filtration. It serves a wide range of sectors – from automotive, aerospace and marine, to specialised industrial and customised hydraulic applications. Renowned for its innovation, UFI's products and know-how are found in all kinds of vehicles – from Ferrari and other top F1 teams, to the European ExoMars spacecraft.

UFI supplies the full range of air, oil, fuel, cabin, hydraulic and coolant filters as well as thermal management systems (including heat exchangers for combustion, electric and hybrid vehicles) to the automotive sector, meeting the needs of nearly all car brands and motorcycles as well as commercial, heavy duty (on-road and off-road) and agricultural vehicles. In the OE market, UFI is a leading filtration provider. Each family of filters within the company's two Aftermarket brands, UFI and SOFIMA, covers 98% of the European car parc.

One of the first Italian companies to identify growth opportunities in the Far East, today UFI has 22 industrial sites and employs over 4,000 people in 21 countries. It employs over 250 specialised technicians in its 3 Innovation and Research Centres and holds more than 320 patents. As a research-driven company, it reinvests over 5% of its revenues in R&D.

UFI Hydrogen:

UFI Hydrogen is the Italian company, within the UFI Filters Group, that is completely focused on the value chain of the hydrogen sector. The UFI Filters Group has been engaged in the R&D of hydrogen technologies since 2017, leading to the foundation, in 2023, of the new company dedicated to the research and development, implementation and industrialisation of Membrane Electrode Assemblies (MEAs) for Proton Exchange Membranes (PEMs). MEAs are used for electrolysis of water, suitable for the production of green hydrogen; as well as for PEMs of fuel cells, for the use of green hydrogen in zero-emission mobility and applications in electrochemical compressors.

UFI Hydrogen's R&D, based in northern Italy, aims to be the first Italian research centre and producer of green hydrogen technologies to actively participate in the zero-emission decarbonisation process. UFI Hydrogen has developed an extensive international network with the most important hydrogen R&D centres, universities, innovative start-ups, research labs and PhDs globally, enabling the company's R&D to achieve a highly innovative, competitive MEA solution that guarantees the highest market KPIs and durability.

UFI Hydrogen counts on the active support of the Autonomous Province of Trento and Fondazione Bruno Kessler (FBK) for innovation projects on MEAs for water electrolyzers; and on the Autonomous Province of Trento for the development of the new production site in northern Italy.

Further information:

UFI Customer Relations: marketing@it.ufifilters.com

UFI Media Relations: **bmb-consult**

Martin Pohl - Phone: + 49 175 29 49 665 - E-mail: m.pohl@bmb-consult.com

Simone Boehringer - Phone: + 49 175 29 49 662 - E-mail: s.boehringer@bmb-consult.com