

S. Korea govt, industry join forces to expand fuel cell vehicles

2016.08.24 15:32:16 | 2016.08.24 17:35:07



[Tucson fuel cell]

The Korean central and local governments, automobile and fuel industry have joined forces to accelerate proliferation of hydrogen-powered cars. They launched a group called “Alliance for Hydrogen Convergence” Wednesday in central Seoul.

According to the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy (MOTIE), the alliance is comprised of the relevant ministries, local administrations and producers in the fuel cell car industry including parts, and finished car makers, materials, battery, gas providers, and retailers.

The new consultative body will act as a control tower that oversees and integrates efforts in commercialization of hydrogen cars and monetization of hydrogen energy.

It plans to form a special purpose company to expand hydrogen-fueling stations throughout the country.

The nation had a head start in the field as its largest automaker Hyundai Motor Co. was the world's first to mass-produce hydrogen cars in 2013. However, proliferation has been slow due to the expensive price tag and lack of recharge infrastructure.

To date, 78 hydrogen-powered cars were sold to local governments and public institutions. There are 10 fueling stations for use and test.

The government set the target of having 10,000 hydrogen cars run on the road and installing 100 fueling stations by 2020. Hyundai Motor plans to release fuel cell bus at year-end and new Tucson fuel cell model early 2018.

By Noh Won-myung, Ko Jae-man and Lee Seung-yoon

[© Pulse by Maeil Business Newspaper & mk.co.kr, All rights reserved]