

# PARTNER TO PRODUCE FUEL CELL

A joint venture has been established between the Volvo Group and Daimler Truck Ag. The aim is to develop large-scale production of fuel cells for heavy-duty vehicle

Sharing the 'Green Deal' vision of sustainable transport and a zero-emission Europe by 2050, Daimler Truck AG and the Volvo Group have signed a preliminary non-binding agreement to establish a new joint venture. The aim is to develop, manufacture and commercialize fuel cell systems for heavy-duty vehicle applications (including buses) and other uses.

The two partners will acquire 50% in the joint venture which will operate as an independent and autonomous entity. In all other areas of business the two companies will continue to be competitors. Joining forces will reduce development costs for both and accelerate the market introduction. A series production is scheduled in the second half of the decade.

To enable the joint venture, Daimler Trucks is bringing together all of the group-wide fuel cell businesses into a new Daimler Trucks fuel cell unit. Part of this grouping of activities is the allocation of the operations of 'Mercedes-Benz Fuel Cell GmbH', which has longstanding experience in the development

of fuel cell and hydrogen storage systems for various vehicle applications, to Daimler Truck AG.

The joint venture will include operations in Nærburn, Germany (current headquarters of Mercedes-Benz Fuel Cell), with production facilities in Germany and Canada.

"This joint initiative with the Volvo Group is a milestone in bringing fuel cell powered trucks and buses onto our roads", said Martin Daum, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Daimler Truck AG and member of the

Board of Directors of Daimler AG.

"The establishment of this joint venture clearly shows that we believe in hydrogen fuel cells for commercial vehicles. But for this vision to become reality, other companies and institutions also need to support and contribute to this development, also in order to establish the necessary infrastructures", commented Martin Lundstedt, President and CEO of the Volvo Group.

A final agreement is expected by the third quarter of the year and is set to close by the end of 2020. ●

