

# HYDROGEN: SCANIA IS WORKING ON IT

The Swedish manufacturer is working on fuel cell technology research. A project in partnership with Asko is under way in order to test this solution in trucks

Scania's commitment to sustainable transport also includes research activities in the hydrogen fuel-cell sector. For this reason, the Swedish company is in partnership with Asko, a Norwegian goods wholesaler, to test this technology in trucks.

The trucks are equipped with an electric powertrain and electrical energy is converted from hydrogen gas through the fuel cells on board the vehicles. A truck or a bus powered by a fuel cell will always have a battery and be hybrid. Therefore with this solution it can run at a more stable power level.

«Different customers in different regions of the world will need different hydrogen fuel-cell solutions and technologies» said Hedvig Paradis (in the picture), the Project Manager in charge of Scania's collaboration with Asko. «We can see for example in Japan, South Korea and California that they are pushing for hydrogen-based solutions, and building hydrogen gas stations».

The greatest strength of hydrogen-based solu-

tions is that it is a zero-emission technology, in fact, the vehicle only emits water locally. However, as with all new technologies, there are also challenges that have to be faced.

«The technology is not so mature yet» warned Paradis. «It needs us to take greater steps in a shorter time, such as trying to solve the issues of degradation and lifetime of the fuel cell».

The central issue of how and where hydrogen is produced should be addressed. «Hydrogen gas stations are not developed yet» pointed out Paradis, «although there is more infrastructure emerging.

Some companies, such as Asko, are building their own refuelling stations in order to be in control of their own ecosystem».

Another issue is the space needed for hydrogen tanks on trucks and buses. The solution available today requires a huge volume to maintain a good range. Paradis is however confident that technology will overcome these obstacles. «I believe there is a bright future for fuel cells». ●

