



## Media Release

Winterthur, 10 April 2006

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The development of high temperature fuel cells goes on

### **Fuel cell heaters from Hexis continue to be in operation**

**The activities of the Hexis Ltd. are continued. The first three months were used successfully in order to stimulate existing partnerships with industry and science and to develop new ones. According to the plans, Hexis continues this year to operate the pilot systems "HXS 1000 PREMIERE" along with power utility companies in Switzerland, Germany and Austria. Some of the partners of Hexis will continue the field tests with "HXS 1000 PREMIERE" also in 2007.**

Since 1st January 2006 the Hexis Ltd. - along with a new investor - is again active in the business with high temperature fuel cells of the type SOFC. The Stiftung für Kunst, Kultur und Geschichte (foundation for art, culture and history) from Winterthur enables with its commitment 12 employees, mainly researchers and developers, to make the fuel cell heater marketable. The central component of the fuel cell heater "Galileo 1000 N", the fuel cell module, will be improved with regard to its life span, performance and efficiency. The architecture of the entire system is frozen on the current high state of the art and thus serves as a basis for the further development.

Hexis used the first three months of this year among other things to liven up former partnerships of the predecessor company Sulzer Hexis Ltd. and to start new partnerships. The managing director Dr. Alexander Schuler and his employees are very pleased to be able to continue the cooperation with the suppliers like e.g. the Austrian company Plansee for the current collectors and the Japanese enterprise Nippon Shokubai for the electrolytes. In one of the newer partnerships Hexis will cooperate in a Swiss fuel cell net closely with the local scientists of the ZHW in Winterthur, the ETH Zürich, the EPF Lausanne and the EMPA in Dübendorf.

Our partners from the power utility, enterprises like Axpo and GVM from Switzerland, EnBW, E.ON, EWE, EWR, RWE and VNG from Germany and Energie AG and Erdgas Oberösterreich signalize clearly that the former cooperation can be continued. This development is supported by the fact that numerous of the initially more than 100 pilot models "HXS 1000 PREMIERE" are supposed to continue to be operated this year and in 2007. While some partners have decided to end the test phase this year as it was planned, other partners will continue the operation of these devices until next year in order to keep on collecting experiences with this innovative technology under real life conditions along with Hexis.

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If the technical targets are met, a field test with the fuel cell heater "Galileo 1000 N" will be started this fall. In this case it is the goal to win important experiences with this optimized fuel cell heater in practical applications as well as to verify increased necessary life time and performance of the fuel cell module. Hexis is confident that the technical basic requirements for a field test with "Galileo 1000 N" will be given this year.

*About Hexis: The Hexis Ltd. is a company with 12 employees based in Winterthur. Hexis' fuel cell heater "Galileo 1000 N" is operated with natural gas and supplies a maximum of 1 kW electrical and 2.5 kW thermal power. It required an additional torch switches in automatically. The system is designed to cover the basic power requirement and the entire heat requirement of a representative Central European single-family home. [www.hexis.com](http://www.hexis.com)*

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