

Wired News Blog
Fuel Cell Vehicles on Display at E-Tech
Dylan Tweney
March 9, 2006

Fuel cell console



Live from ETech - The dashboard of GM's fuel cell powered Silverado includes this display. Each of the horizontal lines is composed of 200 pixels, each of which represents the voltage level of a single cell in the car's two fuel cell stacks. Naturally, everything is computer controlled. To tune the car, engineers tweak its software on their laptops. While this truck's motors have

tremendous torque (430 foot pounds at peak) the software was set to limit them to modest levels of power for today's test drives, probably to prevent a bunch of web geeks from hurting themselves and the car. The result: it drove like an ordinary Silverado.

Honda fuel cell car

Live from ETech - a fuel cell powered Honda leased by the city of Chula Vista. It has a 200 volt Ballard fuel cell plant which provides the equivalent of V6 power. Chula Vista has one of the state's 13 hydrogen fueling stations, an electrolyzer that can generate 3kg of compressed hydrogen per hour. (That's pretty fast, apparently.)



GM Opel

Live from ETech - This Opel runs on compressed H₂ and can go up to 90 mph for 120-160 miles. It has 3 kg of H₂ on board (1kg of hydrogen is equivalent to about 1 gallon of gas). GM has 600 engineers working on fuel cell vehicles.



Marine Corps Fuel Cell Truck Live from ETech - The [California Fuel Cell Partnership](#) is showing off some fuel cell powered cars. Here is a modified Chevy Silverado 2500 with two fuel cell stacks and an electric motor on each axle. It generates 188 kilowatts of power at 400 volts, making it a portable power plant.





Nissan fuel cell car

Nissan's fuel cell car can go 250 miles on one tank of H₂. It also has compact Lithium ion batteries. This is a one of a kind prototype.