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## **ATCO Invests \$1.2 Million in Advanced Fuel Cell Research NAIT Project to Determine Applications for Fuel Cell Technology**

EDMONTON, Alberta – ATCO Gas will invest \$1.2 million to develop new research focused on determining viable commercial applications for power generated by Canada's first high voltage, fully operational fuel cell.

Installed at the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (NAIT), the \$3.25 million fuel-cell project at the applied technology post-secondary institution is funded in partnership with provincial and federal government agencies.

"This leading Canadian initiative will research breakthrough ways to generate clean energy and develop innovative applications to use the electricity and heat," said Jerome Engler, President, ATCO Gas. "The applied research has potential to return enormous, environmentally positive dividends to all energy users."

Western Economic Diversification Canada, Alberta Energy Research Institute, ATCO Gas, and Climate Change Central are combining resources to install both a 200 kW phosphoric acid fuel cell and a smaller, 5kW solid oxide fuel cell at NAIT's power generation laboratory.

An interactive interpretive centre—incorporating the 200kW fuel cell—will open at NAIT in early 2004 making information about the technology more accessible to Albertans.

The project will also place NAIT's Power Engineering program at the forefront of international fuel-cell education, creating a growing trained workforce capable of applying the emerging technology worldwide.

"Highly qualified NAIT graduates are found everywhere within the ATCO Group of Companies," added Mr. Engler. "They have been integral in our ability to build, operate and maintain world-leading electricity transmission systems and natural gas pipeline networks."

"As Alberta's leader in delivering natural gas to consumers, ATCO Gas' investment in this innovative project demonstrates our commitment to explore new ways to provide heat and power. Our core business is investing in infrastructure to deliver energy to Albertans. This project will give us the opportunity to examine a new way to do this," said Mr. Engler.

With 50 per cent fewer greenhouse gas emissions and 99 per cent less pollutants, new fuel cell applications offer enormous opportunities for Alberta. Through energy efficiency and conservation measures, by 2001 ATCO Gas had already reduced greenhouse gas emissions four percent below 1990 levels.

NAIT is one of Canada's largest institutes of technology, with approximately 17,000 full-time and apprenticeship students and 43,000 continuing education registrations.

ATCO Gas is part of the ATCO Group of companies. Based in Alberta, ATCO Group is one of Canada's premier corporations with a worldwide organization of companies employing more than 6000 persons engaged in Utilities, Power Generation, Logistics and Energy Services, Technologies and Industrials.