FEnEx CRC News

April 2026

Call for project proposals

Do you have a research project proposal or idea and are seeking collaboration with FEnEx CRC Participants? Whether you have a project proposal with a complete budget or just an idea, we'd love to hear from you.

Round 23 is open until **8 June 2026**. Find out all you need to know to apply here.

New controlled release of methane project

We are thrilled to partner with Stanford University on a new collaborative project to construct and operate a controlled release facility (CRF) in Australia. Specifically, the project aims to develop a CRF able to simulate real coal mine conditions.

Together with Dr Adam Brandt and Audrey McManemin from Stanford University, we have reviewed a shortlist of possible sites in Australia where a CRF could be sited to emulate the complex, scattered distribution of methane emissions from a coal mine.

Exploring hydrogen innovations at Washington State University

While in the US this month, FEnEx CRC CEO Eric May visited Washington State University and met with Prof. Jacob Leachman at the HYPER (Hydrogen Properties and Energy Research) lab. Eric learned about research projects on thermo-acoustic cycles, lunar dust suppression using the Leidenfrost effect, characterising ortho-para hydrogen conversion catalysts (like those at UWA), and testing 3D-printed insulation for cryogenic tanks.

A highlight was the demonstration of a polymer bellows-type bladder compatible with cryogenic temperatures that could prevent sloshing in hydrogen tanks by reducing the internal volume to match that of the remaining liquid. They also had facilities for exploring ways to measure hydrogen liquid level in mobile tanks, a challenge also being considered through research underway at FEnEx CRC and elsewhere in Australia.

Eric had the opportunity to visit HYPER's outdoor electrolyser and liquefier, which has enabled the team to visualise liquid hydrogen flow regimes that have never been seen before. These insights are critical for efficient transfer operations.

Eric was also pleased to be given a copy of Prof Leachman's new textbook, *Cool Fuel*, which has a dedicated chapter on Safety that includes content for a series of training workshops that will be very useful once the CRC's hydrogen liquefier is established at KETH.

KETH Stage 1 construction progress

The Kwinana Energy Transformation Hub (KETH) has reached another exciting milestone with the building structures now being erected. During April, the steel frame was constructed, the roofing was completed and wall sheeting began.

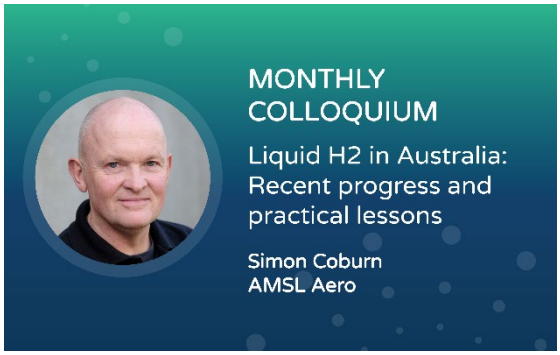
Looking ahead to May, we aim to install internal services and external cladding, and remain on schedule to complete Stage 1 of the project in September this year.

Latest Publication

The Solubility of Solid Hydrogen Sulfide in Methane

View all FEnEx CRC publications on our website here.

For Your Calendar



1 May, 08:45 – 10:00 (AWST)
Liquid Hydrogen in Australia:
Recent progress and practical lessons

In this month's colloquium, we hear practical lessons and insights from Simon Coburn, whose endless fascination for energy led him to an impactful career in hydrogen.

Simon's career journey began with a feasibility study into ammonia production at Pacific Hydro, before moving to Hyzon Motors, where his team developed several hydrogen-powered vehicles, including a hydrogen-powered garbage truck for Australia and a liquid-hydrogen-powered prime mover for the USA.

Since 2023, he has been the Hydrogen Systems Engineer at AMSL Aero, where he is leading the powertrain design for several liquid-hydrogen-powered aircraft.

To register, fill out the contact form on our Connect page and tick the 'monthly colloquium' box.

Thank you to our partners and researchers who steadfastly support this collaborative effort towards the decarbonisation of Australia's energy exports.

Australian Government
Department of Industry, Science and Resources
Cooperative Research Centres Program