Plug Power GenDrive™ Fuel Cells Replace Internal Combustion Engines at Nestlé Waters Bottling Facility

Rising fuel costs coupled with high greenhouse gas emissions have companies searching for alternative solutions to internal combustion (IC) engines for their lift truck operations. Nestlé Waters North America has made a commitment to green technology at their expanding bottling facility in Dallas, Texas.

Nestlé Waters North America has installed 32 GenDrive™ hydrogen fuel cells, converting its entire fleet of sit down counterbalanced lift trucks from internal combustion engines powered by liquid petroleum gas to Yale® class I electric lift trucks powered by GenDrive power units.

Both lead acid batteries and hydrogen fuel cells were evaluated as potential replacements for Nestlé Waters current fuel source. In the end, Plug Power’s GenDrive™ fuel cell power units allowed them to make the full site conversion without incurring heavy labor and equipment costs associated with buying, storing, maintaining and charging batteries.

Nestlé Waters found that electric lift trucks powered by GenDrive provide a cost effective alternative to traditional power sources. The GenDrive solution is less expensive than investing in lead acid batteries and costly battery equipment. At the same time, Nestlé Waters is able to increase efficiency and productivity while eliminating exhaust emission issues created by their IC engines. Ultimately, an improved working environment is created for employees while Nestlé Waters’ carbon footprint is reduced.

The hydrogen fuel and infrastructure at Nestlé Waters is provided by Air Products. The fueling infrastructure consists of an outdoor liquid hydrogen storage and compression system, as well as multiple indoor fueling dispensers for operator refueling. The GenDrive power units can be quickly refueled by the lift truck operator in less than 5 minutes, completely eliminating lead acid batteries and the related charging and storing infrastructure.