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## **Press Release**

A Third Frontier Grant of 1 million dollars was awarded to American Trim for their continued efforts in the development of fuel cell technology.

## Lima, Ohio – April 7, 2011

For the last three years American Trim has worked on a research and development project that will decrease the material and capital costs involved in producing fuel cell stacks. The company has made significant progress in the area of forming fuel cell plates using HVMF and is on the verge of bringing this capability to the manufacturing floor in Ohio. The Ohio Third Frontier Program agrees and is encouraging the next stage of development of this technology by awarding a \$1 million grant to American Trim.

Fuel cell stacks are limited in power generation by size and cost. Today the fuel cell stack comprises almost half of the cost involved in manufacturing a completed fuel cell.

The value proposition that American Trim can provide to the fuel cell industry is the unique ability to use HVMF (high velocity metal forming) through the use of Electromagnetic Force (EMF) to produce these plates cost effectively in both low and high volumes. "We are very excited about the potential offered by this technology as we move toward actualization," commented Larry Wilkerson, Program Manager for HVMF at American Trim. "With the continued support of the Ohio Department of Development this grant will provide the opportunity to help us achieve that goal."



## It is the goal during this next stage to work in

conjunction with a global manufacturer of fuel cell components to prove out the ability of the HVMF process to efficiently produce fuel cell stacks. This manufacturer believes American Trim's research has shown opportunities to improve and reduce manufacturing cost within the next 5 years. In which time, they project we will begin to see a demand for fuel cells in the area of 5 million units and the growth of demand increasing as successful applications are developed.

This grant also demonstrates a continued collaboration of American Trim, Ohio State University Department of Materials Science and Engineering (OSU), Ohio Northern University (ONU), and the Edison Materials Technology Center (EMTEC). It has been this team's step by step process that has allowed for continued development of useful technology that will help to commercialize the fuel cell and allow for an efficient and alternate fuel source.

To learn more about our HVMF process and why it is a perfect fit for fuel cell production visit our website at <a href="http://www.amtrim.com/hvmf.asp">http://www.amtrim.com/hvmf.asp</a> or contact John Swigard, Director of Marketing for American Trim at <a href="jswigard@amtrim.com">jswigard@amtrim.com</a>.

## **About American Trim**

American Trim was founded in 1951 and specializes in the forming, decorating, and coating of metal and composite substrates. These core competencies are supported and enhanced by American Trim's Design, Research and Development activities ensuring the most advanced and cost effective solutions for its customer partners.