

Solvay hails world's largest fuel cell of type in Flanders, one can power 1,400 homes

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A street in Chatelet, Belgium. Chemicals giant Solvay hailed Monday the successful entry into service in Flanders of what it said was the largest fuel cell of its type in the world, a super-battery that produces enough electricity to power nearly 1,400 homes.

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A super-battery that produces enough electricity to power nearly 1,400 homes, the [Proton Exchange Membrane](#) (PEM) fuel cell has been producing clean electricity at a "steady rate" for weeks at a SolVin plant part-owned by Germany's BASF in Antwerp, northern Dutch-speaking Belgium.

SolVin is a market leader in vinyl, or PVC production.

The fuel cell converts the [chemical energy](#) from hydrogen into clean electricity through an [electrochemical reaction](#) with oxygen, and "has generated over 500 MWh in about 800 hours of operation," Solvay said in a news release.

The company said this equates to the [electricity consumption](#) of 1,370 families over the same period.

Fuel-cell technology is tipped by developers as a future power solution for everything from cars to ships.

Flanders has benefited from a 14-million-euro investment in this applied technology, with the EU, the Dutch and the Belgian Flemish governments backers of Solvay's 5.0-million euros investment.

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