

Next generation of power

By TOM JACKSON

Crain's Cleveland Business

The Generation Foundation of Cleveland has awarded \$50,000 to the Ohio Fuel Cell Coalition to help the Cleveland-based group publicize the potential of fuel cells as a new industry in Northeast Ohio.

The grant, approved last month, will be used to educate Northeast Ohio school children about fuel cells and to create brochures to educate the general public about fuel cells and how they can be used, said Ken Alfred, executive director of the Ohio Fuel Cell Coalition.

Although fuel cells were developed before the Civil War, they are gaining new popularity as an alternative — and environmentally friendly — source of electricity to power automobiles, to heat homes and to fuel industry.

"We are hopeful this will be the first of a multi-year relationship with the Generation Foundation," Mr. Alfred said.

But Robert Miller, executive director for the Generation Foundation, said there are no guarantees.

"Our board will review OFCC's one-year progress report in September 2005," Mr. Miller said.

The Generation Foundation's president, Glenn Brown, has joined the board of the Ohio Fuel Cell Coalition, which was formed in 2003. The board recently announced it elected new officers for 2004-2005. Rodger McKain, the president of Sofco-Efs Holdings LLC, a fuel cell company in Alliance, is the chairman of the coalition board.

The Ohio Fuel Cell Coalition was formed in 2003 to promote the development of fuel cells as an industry in the state. The nonprofit organization has about 60 members from industry, academia and government.