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Linc to assess its hydrogen options

SARAH MARTIN

LINC ENERGY will look at developing hydrogen fuel technology following an agreement signed with UK company AFC Energy yesterday.

The Brisbane-based company plans to build the world's first commercial underground coal gasification (UCG) plant near Orroroo in the Flinders Ranges, and says the plant's surplus hydrogen could be harnessed for power generation using AFC's fuel cell technology.

AFC has developed the Alpha System Fuel Cell which is a modular, alkaline fuel cell that generates clean electricity from hydrogen.

Under the agreement, Linc will buy AFC's Alpha Fuel System for \$360,000 which it will test at Chinchilla in Queensland by mid-April 2010.

Linc Energy chief executive Peter Bond said he hoped to have the technology on-site at Orroroo late in 2010.

"We are going to have a significant amount of surplus hydrogen as a byproduct at Orroroo and it is an ideal location for a couple of fuel cells," Mr Bond said.