

In 1979, Dr. Geoffrey Ballard, acknowledged worldwide as the father of the fuel-cell industry, helped found Ballard Power Systems. In 1993, the company introduced the world's first hydrogen-fuel-cell-powered, zero-emission transit bus at Science World in Vancouver, Canada. Ballard retired as chair of the company in 1997. In 1999, he formed General Hydrogen Corporation to provide energy-delivery technologies, systems and infrastructures for fuel-cell vehicles and devices and has served as Chair of General Hydrogen since that time.

Dr Ballard has been internationally honoured for bringing fuel cells to commercial viability through his work at Ballard Power. In 1999, he was named by Time magazine as 'Hero of the Planet' and received the Order of Canada. He serves as chair of the Canadian Hydrogen Association and as an Advisory Board member for the Institute of Transportation Studies, University of California. He received the World Technology Network Award in Energy in November 1999, and received the Gutenberg International Environment prize in Sweden in 2000.

Dr Ballard is a graduate of Queen's University and was awarded a PhD by Washington University. He has numerous publications and patents to his credit, has been granted honorary degrees from six Canadian universities and is a Member of the Order of Canada.