

Charles E. Freese V

Executive Director, Global Fuel Cell Business
General Motors Company



As Executive Director of General Motors' Global Fuel Cell Business, Mr. Charles Freese leads GM's world-wide fuel cell development organization, with sites in Michigan, New York, California, Washington, D.C., Hawaii, and Germany. In this role, he oversees the research, development, application engineering, laboratories, manufacturing, demonstration programs, and strategic initiatives of GM's fuel cell programs. He also manages GM's collaboration with Honda, which was established in 2013 to collaborate on hydrogen fuel cell automotive products. Charlie has more than 28 years of experience in propulsion systems and automotive, military, and aerospace businesses. He began his career at Detroit Diesel Corporation in 1989, where he held multiple positions in the Advanced Engineering, Product Engineering, and Sales organizations. He moved to Ford Motor Company in 2001 as the Chief Engineer for Diesel Engines, and in 2003 he joined General Motors as the Executive Director for Global Diesel Engineering. He assumed responsibility for GM's Global Fuel Cell Activities in 2008 and is currently responsible for more than 400 engineers and researchers. This team reduced fuel cell system costs by orders of magnitude, operated the world's largest fleet of fuel cell vehicles, and developed commercially viable fuel cell designs with benchmark mass, size, and performance. He holds an M.S. in Engineering Management and an M.S. in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Michigan.