Hudson Valley Community College's satellite campus in Malta, New York could serve as a test site for General Electric's new fuel cell technology, according to college president Andrew Matonak.

General Electric announced Tuesday that it has developed fuel cell technology at its Global Research center in Niskayuna that is the centerpiece of a new startup business and pilot manufacturing plant being developed in Malta. The plant will be located next to Hudson Valley's TEC-SMART satellite campus. GE is leasing space in a building owned by the United Group of Cos. in the Saratoga Technology + Energy Park.

This spring, GE reached out to Hudson Valley to discuss using TEC-SMART as a test site for the fuel cells, Matonak said. The fuel cells, which will have residential and commercial applications, could be used to provide electricity to the building.

Matonak said the idea could mesh well with TEC-SMART, which offers programs to prepare students for careers in the semiconductor and clean energy industries.

"It's perfect for what we do," Matonak says.

Hudson Valley is a two-year college headquartered in Troy, New York. Matonak said the school and General Electric have had brief, initial conversations about how students may interact with the fuel cell unit or manufacturing plant.

The new GE business and manufacturing site also could have implications for youngers students.

The Clean Technologies Early College High School is based out of the TEC-SMART campus.
brings students from various school districts and offers students pathways in clean energy, computer science and information systems, nanotechnology and semiconductor manufacturing, entrepreneurship, leadership and innovation.

"To have something of this significance within an arms reach of our program will provide tremendous opportunities and experiences for our students," says Joe Dragone, superintendent of the Ballston Spa Central School District. "This really is a platinum opportunity to support the work we're doing in our clean energy pathway."

The early college high school is a partnership between about 20 school districts, with lead school district Ballston Spa School District, Hudson Valley Community College and more than 25 business partners.

Megan reports breaking news and covers education.