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Greenhouse News

• the official newsletter of IEAGHG and its members •

April 2013 • Issue 109

Press Release: Preferred Bidders Announced in the UK's £1bn CCS Competition

The two preferred bidders in the UK's Carbon Capture and Storage Commercialisation Programme Competition have been announced today.

They are the Peterhead Project in Aberdeenshire, Scotland, and the White Rose Project in Yorkshire, England.

CCS technology, if developed at scale, could allow the safe removal and storage of harmful carbon emissions from coal and gas fired power stations and heavy industry, to help the UK meet its climate change targets.

Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, Edward Davey said:

"Today's announcement moves us a significant step closer to a Carbon Capture and Storage industry – an industry which will help reduce carbon emissions and create thousands of jobs.

"These two are major infrastructure projects potentially worth several billion pounds and could support thousands of construction jobs over the next few years.

"We had four excellent bids and I'd like to thank each one of them for their hard work. We will now be working swiftly to progress our preferred two, while making sure we continue to provide the best possible value to tax payers."

Energy Minister John Hayes said: "We are working quickly to our goal of a cost competitive CCS industry - and these projects are just the start. In the past year we have demonstrated there is significant appetite from industry to invest in UK CCS, providing jobs and investment opportunities.

"It is my intention to work with industry, beyond these two projects, to ensure we have further CCS projects by the end of the decade – supported by the innovative changes we are making to the energy market to encourage investment in low carbon electricity.

"I am also very pleased that these two projects offer us the opportunity to ensure that both gas and coal generation have a hugely reduced impact on our carbon emissions."

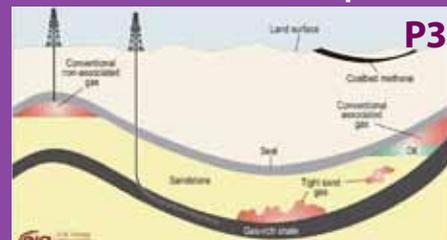
Please turn overleaf for more details on each project.

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Shale Gas Emission Report



New ISO CCS Standards



Utilisation of CO₂: A Symposium



UKCCSRC Biannual Meeting - 8th – 9th April 2013

The next UKCCSRC Biannual Meeting will be hosted by the University of Sheffield 8th-9th April 2013. This meeting is expected to draw 100 delegates from the entire CCS value chain and spanning across academia, government, industry and NGOs. The meeting is intended to both provide a comprehensive update on current CCS research and facilitate networking and knowledge sharing amongst the delegates.

Overviews from newly funded CCS research projects will be presented on 8th April. Parallel technical sessions in the subject areas of storage, capture, transport/energy systems and transport/environment will take place over the two days with speakers presenting updates and results of a host of projects nearing completion or recently completed. There will be also be a poster session allowing non-presenters the opportunity to share their research.

A draft agenda is available to view at the following website: www.ukccsrc.ac.uk/system/files/2013-04-08%20UKCCSRC-Sheffield-BiAnnual-Agenda_0.pdf

To register, please visit the website below:

www.ukccsrc.ac.uk/meetings-events/ukccsrc-meetings/ukccsrc-and-community-network-biannual-meeting-april-2013 ●

Press Release: 8th CO₂ GeoNet Open Forum: CO₂ storage pilots and international collaboration



Do pilot projects represent today, in Europe, the main avenue to achieve fundamental learning experiences for the implementation of the geological storage of CO₂? How can they contribute to the overall progress of this technology within an international collaboration framework?

Researchers from all over Europe will gather in Venice on 9th- 11th April 2013 to propose a scientific perspective

on the way forward for the geological storage of CO₂ in Europe and discuss progress together with stakeholders.

The 8th Open Forum, organised by CO₂GeoNet, the European Network of Excellence on the Geological Storage of CO₂, and CGS Europe, the Pan-European Co-ordination Action on CO₂ geological storage, will focus on CO₂ storage pilots, since demonstration projects designed to test the feasibility of the CO₂ capture and storage (CCS) technology at a large-scale are facing major challenges which may result in significant delays or even cancellations.

Isabelle Czernichowski-Lauriol of BRGM, France, the President of CO₂GeoNet and Co-ordinator of CGS Europe, explains: "To ensure that CO₂ storage research continues to move forward, small-scale pilot projects may provide an alternative and/or complementary solution to the big demo projects. Pilot projects are lower cost open research platforms, quicker to implement and can provide a strong focus on specific topics. It is time to discuss and assess the need and added value of small-scale pilot storage projects compared to large-scale demonstrations, the critical issues that need to be addressed, and whether goals can be achieved in time."

Typical questions addressed in the forum will be: What can we learn from pilot projects that we cannot do at larger scales? What can we learn from pilot projects that can directly be applied to commercial scale implementation? Should we design pilot storage projects on sites which could later become full-scale storage facilities?

The keynote speaker for this 8th CO₂GeoNet Open Forum will be Hervé Le Treut, climatologist, member of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). He will present on April 10th the latest scientific evidence on climate change, followed by a discussion on the role of CO₂ storage as a mitigation option.

Each year, the CO₂GeoNet Open Forum offers a unique opportunity for stakeholders to meet and interact directly with Europe's largest group of researchers on CO₂ geological storage. Over 130 delegates from more than 30 countries are expected at the Forum. Academic experts, Research institutes, Industry leaders, Regulators, Representatives of the European Commission and of several government services and international bodies will participate in the debates and lectures offered during the three days of the agenda.

Full details of the 8th CO₂GeoNet Open Forum are available at: www.co2geonet.com ●