Greenhouse News

• the official newsletter of IEAGHG and its members •

June 2012 • Issue 106

Stoltenberg: TCM is important for the world

On Monday the 7th of May, the Norwegian Prime Minister Jens Stoltenberg conducted the official opening of the world's largest and most advanced centre for testing and development of carbon capture technologies at Mongstad in Norway.

"The knowledge we gain here at Mongstad will help prepare the ground for future CO_2 capture initiatives, and thereby combat climate change" Stoltenberg said.

Both Mr. Stoltenberg and Mr. Oettinger held speeches at the inauguration ceremony gathering more than 250 prominent international guests. The opening marks, the completion of the construction phase and the start of an exciting test phase are of great importance for the development of carbon capture technologies globally.

The inauguration ceremony was followed by a panel discussion hosted by the Norwegian Minister of Petroleum and Energy, Ola Borten Moe, and co-panelled by Statoil's CEO Helge Lund, Head of IEA Maria van der Hoeven and the Global CCS Institute's CEO Brad Page.

The Minister of Petroleum and Energy Ola Borten Moe said: "There is no solution to the challenges presented by climate change which does not incorporate CCS. Technological development is crucial if we are to progress in this important area. The inauguration of TCM is a groundbreaking event in this regard. The experience and new knowledge we will gather through the tests conducted at the facility will bring us closer to achieving our goals".

The panel discussion covered topics such as climate change and carbon capture as an important element in the global fight against climate change. Reports from the International Energy Agency (IEA) and UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) indicate that Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) can reduce CO_2 emissions by up to 20% by 2050. The discussion focused on the political and industrial frameworks needed to ensure global deployment of CCS) technology.

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Aquistore Open House Updates Community on Pioneering CCS Project, by Aleana Young, PTRC

The community of Estevan in south-eastern Saskatchewan, Canada was abuzz about all things CCS recently. The Petroleum Technology Research Centre (PTRC) hosted an Open House on April 11th to inform the public about its Aquistore project, an independent CO_2 research, storage and monitoring project now underway near the community. PTRC was providing information about the project, seeking feedback and responding to questions.

Estevan, SE Saskatchwen; location of the Open House event for Aquistore project

Over 60 residents came out to the event, many of them local business owners, community leaders and farmers located in and around the project area; "We had concerns living so close to Boundary Dam and found this presentation day answered a lot of our questions and concerns." (attendee survey response, April 11th, 2012).

Aquistore seeks to demonstrate that storing carbon dioxide (CO_2) deep underground (in a brine and sandstone formation), is a safe, workable solution to reduce greenhouse gases. The source of the industrial CO_2 will be SaskPower's Boundary Dam Power Plant (a lignite fired electrical generating station).

To kick off the Open House PTRC CEO Dr. Malcolm Wilson along with Doug Nixon of SaskPower presented their CCS initiatives at the Estevan Ch amber of Commerce Luncheon. Dr. Wilson noted that the carbon capture and sequestration project has now captured both local and international attention, "Weyburn has been the household word for CO_2 storage, and now it will be Estevan that will be popping up on the world maps with the commercial sized capture, storage and test facilities. The experts working on the Aquistore project are looking at this as a fully integrated project."●

Panorama of the Current CO_2 Storage Research Across Europe – 7th CO_2GeoNet Open Forum

The 7th CO_2GeoNet Open Forum took place in Venice from April 17th - 19th with a record attendance of 140 participants from research organisations, industry, funding agencies, regulatory bodies, and the European Commission, representing more than 30 countries. Organised for the second year in a row in the framework of the CGS Europe project, the three-day event demonstrated the wide range of active research on the geological storage of CO_2 throughout Europe, and included much lively and valuable debate.

The theme of this year's forum was the European research landscape on the geological storage of CO_2, with overview presentations of the aims, key results and status of most of the current large EU and national projects on this subject, as well as international research collaboration.

The first two days were ordered into a logical flow of key topics ranging from site characterisation (Mustang, SiteChar), to developing shared transport and storage infrastructure (COMET) and monitoring (CO_2ReMoVe, CO_2FieldLab), to studying the impacts of CO_2 on ecosystems (RISCS, ECO$_2$) and, finally, to projects on site abandonment and the long term fate of CO_2 in geological storage reservoirs (CO_2CARE, ULTimateCO_2, PANACEA). The third day was dedicated to national actions including

national research programmes (Dutch CATO-2, French ANR SEED, Norwegian CLIMIT and German Geotechnologien), as well as some individual projects, with particular attention paid to modelling activities in the different countries.

From this panorama, one can note the clear trend towards more applied research over the last few years, with pilot and demonstration sites, as well as some of the newly envisaged large-scale storage sites playing an increasingly key role. A number of projects aim to provide input to

regulators based on experiences at the demonstration and pilot sites, for example by performing so-called "dry runs" in terms of license applications in order to test existing or proposed procedures. These sites often connect a large group of researchers, and it was good to hear about a few sites outside of Europe, both in Japan and Canada. Many of the current EU and national projects nowadays also include studies on natural CO_2 reservoirs and vents, a subject in which CO_2GeoNet played a pioneering role from the start.

Besides the more technical presentations on the EU projects, sessions were also dedicated to presenting European initiatives aimed at strengthening research, innovation and demonstration, and at promoting international collaboration on CO_2 storage. The EU perspectives of both DG Climate Action and DG Research clearly showed the agendas of respectively the NER 300 demonstration projects and future research under the umbrella of the 'Horizon 2020' program that will follow Framework 7. In addition, key European and global organisations concerned with CCS, including the ZEP, CSLF, IEAGHG, GCCSI, EERA and ECCSEL, described their particular roles in this dynamic landscape.

The event also included a reflection by the EC Scientific Officer and the advisory board of CGS Europe (consisting of representatives of the GCCSI, IEAGHG, ZEP, the French ministry and the NGO GermanWatch), followed by an open and active discussion. One key observation was that the European research landscape can be very confusing, even to active researchers. This Open Forum was a first step towards such a mapping exercise, offering the opportunity to the audience both to hear about on-going research and also to directly interact with the various coordinators and scientists. CO_2GeoNet and CGS Europe can play a prominent role in the detailed mapping of the "research landscape" and in providing further opportunities for integration and coordination.

Panel Discussion at the 7th Open Forum

The presentations are available at this page **www.co2geonet.com/openforum2012_presentations**

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