

Media Release

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Ireland calls on CO2CRC research expertise

Australia's Cooperative Research Centre for Greenhouse Gas Technologies (CO2CRC) is part of a consortium appointed to determine Ireland's all-island potential for geological storage of carbon dioxide, assessing capacity, risk of leakage, cost, and relationship to suitable sources of carbon dioxide emissions.

The consortium has been appointed by government agencies in both Ireland and Northern Ireland to:

- determine Ireland's all-island territorial potential for geological storage of the greenhouse gas, carbon dioxide;
- evaluate large-scale point emissions in terms of suitability for capture and storage of carbon dioxide;
- assess potential sites for their long-term carbon-dioxide-storage integrity;
- identify and cost the optimal capture, delivery and storage paths; and
- define viable carbon storage potential across Ireland and Northern Ireland.

Others in the consortium include CSA Group and Byrne Ó Cléirigh in Dublin and the British Geological Survey.

CO2CRC will lead the project team in both risk assessment and the calculation of commercial potential for carbon dioxide storage, and will assist with identification of storage locations, development and analysis of models for potential carbon dioxide traps, and calculation of both theoretical and accessible carbon dioxide potential.

The Chief Executive of CO2CRC, Dr Peter Cook, said CO2CRC researchers would bring to the project international best practice in risk assessment and extensive experience in evaluating the economics of carbon dioxide capture and storage options. "Our inclusion in the successful consortium furthers international recognition of CO2CRC's expertise in research and development for carbon dioxide capture and geological sequestration, the only technology which can facilitate deep cuts in greenhouse gas emissions while allowing continued use of fossil fuels and much of the world's existing energy infrastructure", Dr Cook said.

The assessment is being undertaken for Sustainable Energy Ireland, the Environmental Protection Agency, Geological Survey of Ireland, and Geological Survey of Northern Ireland.

CO2CRC collaborates with leading international and national carbon capture and storage experts to conduct world-class research into CO₂ geosequestration. Research organisations supporting and participating in CO2CRC geosequestration include CSIRO, Geoscience Australia and the Universities of Adelaide, Curtin, Melbourne, Monash and NSW; the Alberta Research Council in Canada and the US Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory. CO2CRC industry and state core partners are ACARP, Anglo American, BHP Billiton, BP, Chevron, ConocoPhillips, NSW Department of Primary Industries, NZ Resource Consortium, Rio Tinto, Schlumberger, Shell, Foundation for Research Science and Technology (NZ), Solid Energy, Stanwell, the Victorian Department of Primary Industries, Woodside and Xstrata. CO2CRC is supported through the Australian Government's CRC Programme.

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