

Media Release

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CCS RESEARCH FUNDED FOR FURTHER FIVE YEARS

The Cooperative Research Centre for Greenhouse Gas Technologies (CO2CRC), one of the world's leading carbon capture and storage (CCS) research collaborations, is one of ten successful CRCs funded in the 11th selection round of the Australian Government's Cooperative Research Centres (CRC) Program.

Federal Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research Kim Carr today announced funding of AUD \$20 million, enabling CO2CRC to continue its research until 2015.

"We are very pleased that the Australian Government has decided to fund CO2CRC for a further five years," said Dr Peter Cook, Chief Executive of CO2CRC.

"The decision allows us to maintain the highly successful multidisciplinary research teams we have assembled to accelerate deployment of CCS technology and further strengthen our international CCS connections.

"Extending CO2CRC until 2015 will allow us to further capitalise on the three demonstration projects we now have in operation; the CO2CRC Otway Project, the HRL/CO2CRC Mulgrave Capture Project and the CO2CRC H3 Capture Project," he said.

"These demonstration projects are already producing important outcomes in storage and capture research, including showing that storage of CO₂ can be safe and effective and that capture costs can be reduced.

"We need a portfolio of mitigation technologies including CCS for addressing global greenhouse gas emissions. Australian CCS research by CO2CRC and its collaborating partners in government, industry and the universities is punching well above its weight in the field."

CCS has the potential to make deep cuts in global CO₂ emissions, a major contributor to climate change, by capturing and permanently storing CO₂ from major sources such as power stations. The International Energy Agency believes CCS could be responsible for nearly twenty per cent of necessary global CO₂ reductions by 2050. Australia, through the efforts of Australian industry and its Cooperative Research Centre program, has been a pioneer in taking this technology forward since 1998.

The Australian Government's Cooperative Research Centre Program provides funding to build critical mass in research ventures between end-users and researchers which tackle clearly-articulated major challenges for the end-users. CRCs pursue solutions to these challenges that are innovative, of high impact and capable of being effectively deployed by the end-users.

Further information:

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More information on CO2CRC research is available at www.co2crc.com.au

CO2CRC collaborates with leading international and national CCS experts to conduct world-class research into carbon capture and storage. Organisations participating in CO2CRC research include CSIRO, Geoscience Australia, the Universities of Adelaide, Curtin, Melbourne, Monash and NSW, the Alberta Research Council of Canada and the US Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory.

Industry and State core partners supporting CO2CRC are ACARP, Anglo American, BHP Billiton, BP Australia, Chevron, ConocoPhillips, Inpex, KIGAM, Mitsui, NSW Department of Primary Industries, NZ Resource Consortium, Origin, QER, Rio Tinto, Sasol, Schlumberger, Shell, Foundation for Research Science and Technology (NZ), Solid Energy, Stanwell, the Victorian Department of Primary Industries, QLD Department of Mines and Energy, WA Department of Mines and Petroleum, Woodside and Xstrata. CO2CRC is supported through the Australian Government's CRC Program.