

International conference marks start of National CCS Week

National CCS Week, encompassing a wide range of events focusing on carbon capture and storage (CCS) around Australia, has begun with the launch last night of the National CCS Conference at the Park Hyatt Melbourne.

CCS is one of the key technologies being developed globally to deal with our growing greenhouse gas emissions and will be part of an essential portfolio of options, along with renewable energy, energy efficiency and fuel switching. The International Energy Agency estimates that CCS, in which carbon dioxide is captured from large industrial sources and stored safely deep underground, could be responsible for as much as 19 per cent of the carbon dioxide emission reductions required to meet global targets.

Speaking from the conference Dr Peter Cook, the Chief Executive of The Cooperative Research Centre for Greenhouse Gas Technologies (CO2CRC), stressed the international nature of the conference and the week's events.

"The conference has brought together some of the world leaders in advancing CCS – whether their field is research, engineering, finance, policy or regulation," he said.

"Conference delegates will be discussing some of the most significant CCS projects in the world, including many here in Australia. This is an excellent opportunity for the exchange of ideas and the strengthening of networks," he said.

National CCS Week will also give international guests the chance to visit some of Australia's key research, demonstration and commercial projects in person, including the CO2CRC Otway Project, Australia's only demonstration of geological carbon dioxide storage, and CSIRO/CO2CRC carbon dioxide capture projects in the Latrobe Valley. A range of other tours and events are planned around the country for later in the week.

"CO2CRC's annual Research Symposium, where the latest Australian R&D is discussed, will begin on Wednesday," Dr Cook said. "It will be a very full and very rewarding week."

CO2CRC is proud to be a foundation partner of National CCS Week, a joint effort between ten major CCS stakeholders: The Department of Resources, Energy and Tourism; The Australian Trade Commission The Victorian Department of Primary Industries; The Global CCS Institute; CO2CRC; CSIRO; the Australian Coal Association; the Minerals Council of Australia; Brown Coal Innovation Australia and the IEA Greenhouse Gas R&D Programme. The event is also a Carbon Sequestration Leadership Forum (CSLF) co-sponsored event.

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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, NSW, Queensland and Western Australia, GNS Science (NZ), the Alberta Research Council of Canada and the US Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory.

Industry and State core partners supporting CO2CRC are Anglo American, ANLEC R&D, BG Group, BHP Billiton, BP Australia, Chevron, Foundation for Research Science and Technology (NZ), INPEX, KIGAM, Mitsui, NSW Industry & Investment, QER, QLD Department of Mines and Energy, Rio Tinto, Sasol, Schlumberger, Shell, Solid Energy, Stanwell, Total, the Victorian Department of Primary Industries, WA Department of Mines and Petroleum and Xstrata.