

CO2CRC begins next five years of CCS research

Australia's world-leading research into carbon capture and storage (CCS) is set to continue with a new five year program of CO2CRC research now underway.

The Cooperative Research Centre for Greenhouse Gas Technologies (CO2CRC) has been researching ways to reduce carbon dioxide emissions since 2003. The success of that work has been recognised with the extension of funding to 2015 under the Federal Government's highly successful CRC Program.

"CO2CRC's 2010-2015 program tackles the full chain of CCS - capture, transport and geological storage of carbon dioxide – while focusing on the major technical obstacles to large scale deployment," said Dr Peter Cook, Chief Executive of CO2CRC.

"The next five years will be crucial for the global development of CCS, as commercial projects begin to come on-stream, both here, through the Federal Government's CCS Flagship initiative, and overseas."

"CO2CRC research will play an important role in supporting those projects, helping to identify and effectively use storage options, reduce the cost of CO₂ capture and address public concern about the technology."

In recent months the CRC has launched the CCS Atlas of NSW and demonstrated the secure storage of CO₂ deep underground at the CO2CRC Otway Project in Victoria, Australia's first CO₂ storage project.

The new program includes a second stage of applied Otway Project research into CO₂ storage in saline aquifers and monitoring, as well as continuing work at CO₂ capture demonstrations.

"Re-funding is an acknowledgement of the scientific excellence the CRC has brought together, here in Australia and around the globe," said Dr Cook.

Australian CCS research is part of an international drive to make deep cuts in global greenhouse gas emissions by capturing and geologically storing carbon dioxide from major sources such as power stations.

CO2CRC brings together CCS researchers from Australian and international universities and research organisations, industry partners and State and Federal Governments.

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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.