

Cancun decision positive for CCS development

The Cooperative Research Centre for Greenhouse Gas Technologies (CO2CRC) has welcomed the decision at Cancun to make carbon capture and storage (CCS) projects eligible for inclusion in the United Nation's Clean Development Mechanism (CDM).

"This important decision indicates international recognition of the technology once again and will help provide investor certainty in international CCS projects," said Dr Peter Cook, Chief Executive of CO2CRC.

"Whilst there is more work to be done, it is an important step in promoting global deployment of CCS technology and gives developing countries another option in the toolkit of technologies for reducing their greenhouse gas emissions."

The International Energy Agency believes CCS, which captures carbon dioxide from large industrial sources and stores it safely and permanently deep underground, will be responsible for as much as 19 per cent of the global carbon dioxide emission reductions required to tackle the challenge posed by climate change.

The CDM aims to promote investment by industrialized countries in emission reduction projects in developing countries. As emissions from developing nations are projected to rise strongly over the coming years, supporting clean energy infrastructure can significantly contribute to meeting global emission targets.

The UN will look at resolving conditions required for CCS to be included through 2011, including selection of storage sites, monitoring plans, modelling, measuring and accounting for leakage, risk and safety assessments, liability provisions, and restoration of ecosystems and compensation for communities.

CO2CRC is a world-leading R&D collaboration focused on carbon capture and storage technologies, through the CO2CRC Otway Project and various capture projects. Participants include researchers from Australian and international universities and research organisations, industry 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.