

Successful Otway Project advances carbon storage

Australia's only geological carbon storage project has completed a sophisticated A\$10 million research program that will speed the development of the global carbon capture and storage (CCS) industry.

After eleven weeks of continuous operations, an international research team led by the Cooperative Research Centre for Greenhouse Gas Technologies (CO2CRC) has concluded a sequence of five carefully prepared tests at the CO2CRC Otway Project, producing tools and techniques to assess the capacity and security of geological carbon storage worldwide.

"The key achievement from these experiments has been the development of the world's first single well test, which can be used to evaluate the carbon dioxide storage capacity of saline storage reservoirs for carbon storage projects around the world" said Dr Richard Aldous, CEO of CO2CRC.

"It is essentially a very cost-effective way for large industrial CCS projects to determine the potential quantity and security of carbon dioxide to be stored underground in a particular location."

The single well test will be used for storage site appraisal in Australia and around the world in countries such as China, the US, Canada, the UK and Europe, accelerating the deployment of carbon capture and storage projects.

"Several years of planning have led up to this research, with a very high level of scientific rigour and engineering required for the design and execution of the program," said Dr Aldous.

"It has involved drilling and instrumenting a 1500 metre well, followed by a complex series of injections, extractions and sampling over several months - the team have successfully pulled off a remarkable series of sub-surface investigations that are right at the cutting edge of storage science research.'

Instrumental to the success were scientists from leading Australian research organisations, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (USA), Korea Institute of Geoscience and Mineral Resources (KIGAM), Canada's Simon Fraser University and New Zealand's GNS Science.

Research at the Otway Project has been underway since 2006, with over 100 research papers produced and substantial experience gained in running CCS projects. The successful first stage provided a great deal of highly useful information on monitoring, verification and regulation of CCS.

A record of progress and photos from the tests are at www.co2crc.com.au/otway/whatsnew

The CO2CRC Otway Project has been financially supported by the Australian Federal Government, the Victorian State Government and the US Department of Energy, as well as CO2CRC members.

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