

Current and emerging industrial-scale CO₂ capture A brief overview

1st Report of the Thematic Working Group on: CO₂ capture and utilization

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About the CCUS Projects Network

The CCUS Projects Network comprises and supports major industrial projects under way across Europe in the field of carbon capture and storage (CCS) and carbon capture and utilisation (CCU). Our Network aims to speed up delivery of these technologies, which the European Commission recognises as crucial to achieving 2050 climate targets. By sharing knowledge and learning from each other, our project members will drive forward the delivery and deployment of CCS and CCU, enabling Europe's member states to reduce emissions from industry, electricity, transport and heat.

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Executive summary

This report follows from discussions at the European CCUS Projects Network's second knowledge-sharing event for members, held in the Netherlands on 16th October 2019. The aim of the report is to illustrate that CO₂ capture is feasible and operating at an industrial scale today, largely with amine-based technologies. According to the GCCSI, 19 CO₂ capture facilities world-wide are currently operating. Six of these facilities (Sleipner, Snøhvit, Boundary Dam, Petra Nova, Quest CCS, Port Arthur) are presented in this report to exemplify the feasibility of industrial-scale CO₂ capture.

Several CO₂ capture projects are currently being developed across Europe, some of them are focusing on capture only, and others are developed in the context of a full-chain CCS project. The present report presents a non-exhaustive list of emerging CO₂ capture projects in Europe, as summarized in the table below.

| Project (country) | Type of CO ₂ source | CO ₂ capture capacity | Capture technology |
|---|--|--|--|
| Fortum Oslo Varme (NO) | Waste to Energy | 400 kt CO₂/year | Amine (Shell) |
| Norcem Brevik (NO) | Cement | 400 kt CO ₂ /year | Amine (Aker Solutions) |
| LEILAC/Lixhe (BE) | Cement | 76 tonnes CO ₂ /day (intermittent) | Indirect calcination |
| Drax Bioenergy and CCS (UK) | Biofueled energy | 4 x 4 Mt CO₂/year | Amine or non-amine chemical considered |
| KVA Linth (CH) | Waste to Energy | 100 kt CO ₂ /year | Amine |
| ECRA CCS, Colleferro (IT) and Retznei (AT) | Cement | 842 ton CO ₂ /day (Colleferro); 1231 ton CO ₂ /day (Retznei) | Oxyfuel |
| Acorn (UK) | Gas processing and H ₂ production | Gas processing 340 kt/year, H ₂ production 500 kt/year | Several proven commercial CO ₂ capture technologies are being considered. |
| Ervia and Gas Networks Ireland (IE) | Natural gas fired power and oil refinery | Envisages to begin with 2.5 Mt CO ₂ /year | Not yet decided/ disclosed |

The CO₂ capture technologies currently relevant for or developing towards commercial-scale applications are not limited to the ones listed above. In this reporta brief overview of relevant technologies and suppliers is included for completeness. In this context, Technology Centre Mongstad (TCM) is presented with its the abilities to verify and de-risk CO₂ capture technologies.



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Current and emerging industrial-scale CO₂ capture: an overview

1 Introduction

A Clean Planet for All, COM (2018) 733 [1], is the new European strategic vision for a prosperous, modern, competitive and climate neutral economy which states that Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) deployment is necessary for tackling CO₂ emissions that cannot be cut through e.g. energy efficiency and renewables. Especially, CCS is required for abating emissions from energy-intensive industries and (in the transitional phase) for the production of carbon-free hydrogen. It is observed in A Clean Planet for All that CCS has not yet reached the commercialization stage, hampered by among other topics, the *lack of demonstration* of CCS technology¹.

1.1 Objective and scope

The objective of this brief report is to illustrate that CO₂ capture, as the first stage in any CCS chain, is already operating at an industrial scale today, and that additional CO₂ capture projects and technologies are emerging. The realization of CO₂ capture projects in Europe will provide the abovementioned lacking demonstrations of CO₂ capture installations. For completeness, an additional objective with the report is to provide a brief and more general overview of different CO₂ capture technologies, and of CO₂ capture technology suppliers on the market.

This report follows from discussions at the European CCUS Projects Network's second knowledge-sharing event for members, held in the Netherlands on 16th October 2019. Discussions in the thematic working group on CO₂ capture and utilization concluded that there is a necessity to convey the message about the feasibility of CO₂ capture to a broader audience. Also, it was concluded that that an assembly of information on existing and emerging CO₂ capture projects and technologies would be useful to the individual CCUS Projects Network members, as well as for the future work of the group.

1.2 Report structure

This report consists of three main sections. The Current industrial-scale CO₂ capture for storage or enhanced oil recovery (EOR) presents examples of current operating CO₂ capture plants at industrial scale. The section Emerging CO₂ capture projects in Europe presents some of the emerging industrial CO₂ capture projects in Europe, with focus largely on members of the CCUS Projects Network. The section CO₂ capture technologies overview is included to provide a broader picture on activities within the field of CO₂ capture, and is included to illustrate the broad CO₂ capture technology portfolio that is being developed and gradually becoming available for industrial applications through technology suppliers.

¹ Additionally, economic viability, regulatory barriers in some Member States and limited public acceptance are mentioned as factors preventing CCS commercialisation





2 Current industrial-scale CO₂ capture for storage or enhanced oil recovery (EOR)

This section presents some of the operating, industrial-scale CO_2 capture facilities as of today. Only installations with capture for permanent storage or enhanced oil recovery, at a scale relevant for CO_2 capture or use (CCUS) are described. As of November 2019, the Global CCS Institute reports 19 operating industrial-scale CO_2 capture facilities worldwide [2]. Six of these installations are presented in sections 2.1-2.5. Sleipner and Snøhvit projects are, due to their similarities, presented in one joint section, and are included due to their connection to offshore CO_2 storage. Boundary Dam and Petra Nova are examples of CO_2 capture from power generation whereas Quest and Porth Arthur are examples of H_2 production with CO_2 capture. The other projects listed by the Global CCS institute are equally interesting, but are only briefly mentioned in section 2.6, since a complete overview of these facilities was deemed too lengthy for this report.

It should be noted that CO₂ capture for e.g. food industry is well known but is not covered in this report.

2.1 Sleipner and Snøhvit natural gas sweetening (Norway)[3]

Project characteristics: Currently, Sleipner and Snøhvit are the only industrial-scale operating CCS projects in Europe. In both facilities CO₂ is separated from natural gas and injected back into formations for storage. At Sleipner, CO₂ captured from natural gas from the Sleipner Vest and Gudrun fields is injected in the Utsira formation (North Sea). At Snøhvit, CO₂ was previously injected into the Tubåsen saline formation; now it is injected into the Stø formation (Barents Sea).

In 1996 Sleipner was the first site where CO₂ was injected into a dedicated storage site (opposed to EOR). Sleipner was the first industrial-scale CCS project worldwide.

Location: Norway. Natural gas from the Snøhvit offshore development is processed in Melkøya, an island very near Hammerfest (Northern Norway)[4], [5] and Sleipner is an offshore platform in the North Sea, about 250 km west of Stavanger.

Operator/Owner: Equinor operates both the CO₂ capture plants and the storage facilities. The licensees of Sleipner Øst (where the CO₂ capture plant is located) are Equinor Energy AS (59.6%), ExxonMobil Exploration and Production Norway AS (15.4%) LOTOS Exploration and Production Norge AS (15%) and KUFPEC Norway AS (10%)[6]. The licensees of the Snøhvit field are Equinor Energy AS (36.79%), Petoro AS (30%), Total E&P Norge AS (18.4%), Neptune Energy Norge AS (12%) and Wintershall Dea Norge AS (2.81%)

Capture technology: Amine. As a first of a kind plant, the CO₂ capture facility in Sleipner was developed for this application by Statoil (now Equinor); Aker Solutions was also involved in the development [7]. In Snøhvit, aMDEA is used for liquid absorption [8].

CO₂ capture capacity: Sleipner 1 Mt CO₂/year; Snøhvit, 0.7M ton CO₂/year

CO₂ source stream: Sleipner produces natural gas containing 9% CO₂; Snøhvit produces natural gas with 5-8% CO₂

CO₂ captured and stored/used for EOR: Stored, injected into saline aquifers.



Operating year: Sleipner 1996; Snøhvit, 2008

Additional comments: Storage data from Sleipner will soon be released [9].



Figure 1. Processing plant of gas from Snøhvit in Melkøya²

2.2 Boundary Dam coal-fired power plant, BD3 (Canada)[10], [11]

Project characteristics: This is the world's first fully integrated and full-chain industrial-scale CO₂ capture and storage facility, with CO₂ capture retrofitted to a coal-fired power plant [12].

Location: Estevan, Saskatchewan, Canada

Operator/Owner: SaskPower

Capture technology: amine solvent; Shell (formerly Cansolv) combined SO₂ and CO₂ capture process.

CO₂ capture capacity: 1M ton CO₂/year.

CO₂ source stream: exhaust flue gas from coal-fired power plant (115 MWe)

CO₂ captured and stored/used for EOR: part of the CO₂ is used for EOR in the Whitecap Resources oil reservoir and part is injected into the Deadwood formation (Aquistore project [13]).

Operating year: 2014

Investment: 1.467 billion CAD

Lessons learned [14]: Reasons for challenging undertaking were:

- 1. Power plant operators did not have experience in the amine absorption process (chemistry/chemical engineering).
- 2. The Shell process was not previously proven at commercial-scale at a coal-fired plant.
- 3. Process complications associated with fly ash and other contaminants.
- 4. Significant levels of amine degradation complicated performance.

The public commitment to directly address stakeholder concerns regarding the level of investment and a central vision to reach a CO₂ capture goal was a successful tactic to overcome difficulties. Learning and understanding operational capacities of each process unit was important, also to make

² Figure taken from https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Melk%C3%B8ya_2015.jpg Licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution 2.0 Generic license.



better decisions regarding necessary enhancements. Temperature control and thermal reclamation was improved. Flexibility for maintenance was also improved. Monitoring (instrumentation) to prevent fouling was included in the control system.

Two key success factors were the ability to continue to realize value from a 1970 power unit and that the value of the retrofitted power plant also comes from three valuable by-products (CO₂, sulphuric acid and fly ash). An IEAGHG report [11] gives more detail about this project.



Figure 2 Boundary Dam Power Station Saskatchewan³

2.3 Petra Nova coal-fired power plant (United States) [15]

Project characteristics: CO₂ capture retrofitted to a coal-fired power plant. Currently it is the world's largest post-combustion CO₂ capture system in operation.

Location: WA Parish Generating Station, Thompsons, Texas, United States

Operator/Owner: Petra Nova Parish Holdings, LLC, a joint venture between NRG Energy (50%) and JX Nippon Oil & Gas Exploration (50%). NRG owns the power plant.

Capture technology: amine-based (post-combustion), KM CDR Process and KS-1 Solvent

CO₂ **capture capacity:** 1.6 Mt CO₂/year (4.7 ton/day); 33% of total emissions of a 654 MW coal-fired power plant, corresponding to 90% of a 240 MW slipstream of flue gas.

CO₂ source stream: slipstream of exhaust flue gas from coal-fired power plant.

CO₂ captured and stored/used for EOR: CO₂ is used for EOR in oil field (West Ranch oil field); 130 km pipeline.

Operating year: 2017 (January). Construction started in July 2014, and was completed on budget and on schedule.

Investment: 1 billion USD (retrofit costs), of which 190 million USD from DOE (US).

Lessons learned [16]: Monitoring, verification and accounting (MVA) plan was developed by the University of Texas Bureau of Economic Geology to sync with oilfield operations and manages the plan

³ Figure taken from https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Boundary_Dam_Power_Station_Saskatchewan.jpg Licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 4.0 International license.



during a 3-year demonstration period. The plan includes reservoir modelling, CO₂ mass balance accounting, pressure monitoring, fluid sampling, groundwater monitoring, soil gas monitoring.

Lessons learned for CCS projects:

- 1. On-time/on-budget possible due to up-front planning, turn-key contracting and strong partners.
- 2. "First of a kind" projects require more time for commissioning and start-up than conventional projects.
- 3. Successful advanced energy projects will bring together a range of partners with diverse core competencies that collectively span all aspects of the venture [17].
- 4. Considering economics, minimize single points of failure and include spare part program for long-lead spares.



Figure 3 W.A. Parish Power Plant, Thompsons, TX⁴

2.4 Quest CCS (Canada) [18]

Project characteristics: The Scotford Upgrader is designed to process and convert 255 000 barrels of oil equivalent per day of diluted bitumen into synthetic crude oil. Producing the hydrogen required for the bitumen upgrading generates CO₂, which can be captured.

Location: Scotford Upgrader, Northern Alberta, Canada

Operator: Shell

Owners: Shell Canada (60%), Chevron Canada Limited (20%), Marathon Canadian Oil Sands Holding

Limited (20%)

CO₂ **capture capacity:** 1.2Mt CO₂/year (one-third of the emissions from the Scotford Upgrader)

Capture technology: ADIP-X, regenerative-amine process with three absorbers and one amine

stripper [19].

CO₂ source stream: process gas streams of three hydrogen-manufacturing units

⁴ Figure taken from https://www.flickr.com/photos/royluck/5518927574 with a Attribution 2.0 Generic (CC BY 2.0) license.



CO₂ captured and stored/used for EOR: CO₂ is compressed to \sim 12 MPa and stored in the (deep saline) Basal Cambrian Sands (BCS) formation (65 km pipeline).

Operating year: 2015: regeneration unit in May; compression, dehydration and piping in August. Design capacity reached in September 2016.

Investment: 1 310 million CAD. Shell estimates that a similar project would cost 20-30% less with earned experiences [20]. Quest was awarded 120 million CAD from the Clean Energy Fund in Canada (CEF) and 745 million CAD from the Province of Alberta. Constructions started in second quarter of 2012.

Lessons learned: The measurement, monitoring and verification (MMV) plan (technologies and systems) is important for stakeholder acceptance and to ensure that the capture and pipeline facilities, as well as the storage site perform as expected. The governments of Alberta and Canada have been important support. Capacity milestones have been reached ahead of time. Joint transportation and storage facilities reduce costs. A recent IEAGHG report [21] gives more detail about these lessons.

2.5 H₂ production in Valero Refinery, Port Arthur (United States) [22], [23]

Project characteristics: This was the first commercial-scale, steam methane reformer hydrogen production facility incorporating vacuum-swing adsorption CO₂ capture. This was implemented as a retrofit project in two hydrogen production plants (steam-methane reformers) located in the Valero Refinery.

Location: Valero Refinery in Port Arthur, Texas, USA

Operator/Owner: Air Products. Denbury was subcontracted to undertake monitoring, verification and accounting (MVA) activities, and the Texas Bureau of Economic Geology (UT Austin) and UT Dallas were subcontracted for portions of MVA.

CO₂ **capture capacity:** Nameplate capacity is 0.95 Mt CO₂/year, but during tests the equivalent of 1.045 Mt CO₂/year were captured in both plants.

Capture technology: Vacuum-swing adsorption; capturing 90% of the CO₂

CO₂ source stream: process gas stream from steam-methane reformers, with 10-20% CO₂

CO₂ captured and stored/used for EOR: CO₂ is used for EOR in West Hastings Oil Field.

Construction: Engineering (FEED) study completed in 2010; investment decision in May 2011.

Operating year: First plant started capturing in December 2012 and the second in March 2013; full scale capture in May 2013

Investment: 431 million USD of which DOE provided 284 million USD (2009-2017).

Lessons learned: The key success factors were related to coordination and partnership between the technical team, site host, consultants, contractors; as well as deep financial commitment by the US DOE and regulatory incentives. A monitoring, verification and accounting (MVA) plan was also important. A publicly available IEAGHG report [23] gives more details about lessons learned.





Figure 4 Valero Energy Corporation Refinery in Port Arthur, Texas⁵

2.6 Other large-scale projects with CO₂ capture

The Gorgon project in Australia is the most recent to start operations (August 2019). The Gorgon LNG facility with CO₂ injection in Australia will, when fully operational, be the largest geological storage facility in the world, with up to 4 M ton CO₂/year [24]. The only large-scale offshore EOR operation is in Brazil's Petrobras Santos Basin, separating CO₂ from associated gas aboard anchored, floating production, storage, and offloading (FPSO) vessels, using membranes [25].

Other large-scale facilities are CNPC Jilin Oil Field (amine, 0.6 M ton CO₂/year, EOR) in China and Abu Dhabi CCS (amine, 0.8 M ton CO₂/year, EOR) in the UAE. Projects in the U.S. include Illinois Industrial CCS (1 M ton CO₂/year, Injection), Lost Cabin gas plant (0.9 M ton CO₂/year, EOR), Great Plains Synfuels Plant (3 M ton CO₂/year, EOR), Enid Fertilizer (0.7 M ton CO₂/year, EOR) [2].

3 Emerging CO₂ capture projects in Europe

The CO₂ capture projects described in section 1.2 provide evidence that CO₂ capture is feasible on industrial scale and is being done today. But the story does not end there – CO₂ capture projects are emerging world-wide, [2], [26]. To illustrate this development, some of the planned CO₂ capture projects and technologies that are being brought towards industrial-scale implementation in Europe are presented below. It must be noted that this is a non-exhaustive list.

3.1 Fortum Oslo Varme (Norway)[27]

Project characteristics: CO₂ capture from Norway's largest waste-to-energy plant, one of two candidates for CO₂ capture in the Norwegian Full-Scale CCS project. The Waste-to-Energy (WtE) plant incinerates more than 400 kt/y waste to generate power, district heating and cooling for Oslo. The excess heating from the capture process will be utilized in the district heating system.

⁵ This figure is taken from https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Industrial-720706_640.jpg and has been released into the public domain by its author, Carol M. Highsmith.



Location: Klemetsrud, Oslo, Norway

Operator/owner: Fortum Oslo Varme (FOV) and the municipality of Oslo (50% each)

Capture capacity/potential: 400 kt/y CO₂, approximately 50% of the CO₂ is of biological origin

(biomass)

Capture technology: Post-combustion capture by amine technology (Shell technology)

CO₂ destination: After capture CO₂ will be liquefied and stored in intermediate storage tanks. Transport from the capture plant to Port of Oslo by emission free trucks (transport distance about 10 km). Ships will load CO₂ every 4 days for transport to Kollsnes on the Norwegian West coast. Thereafter, the CO₂ will be transported with pipeline (~100 km) for permanent offshore storage. CO₂ transport and storage is managed by the Northern Lights project.

Project timeline: Feed study for the CO₂ capture plant was delivered to the Norwegian government on October 31st, 2019. Investment decisions for the Norwegian Full-Scale CCS project are expected by end 2020/beginning 2021 [28]. CO₂ delivery for transport and storage is expected in 2024 if investment decisions are positive.



Figure 5 Klemetsrud Waste to Energy plant⁶

3.2 Norcem (Norway)[29], [30]

Project characteristics: CO₂ capture from a cement plant, one of two candidates for CO₂ capture in the Norwegian Full-Scale CCS project. Norcem declare that they have a vision of zero CO₂ emissions from concrete products, from a life cycle perspective, by 2030.

Location: Brevik, south-east Norway (coastal area)

⁶ Figure taken from https://no.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fil:Klemetsrud_energigjenvinningsanlegg_02.JPG under Creative Commons license



Operator/Owner: Norcem, part of HeidelbergCement Northern Europe

Capture capacity/potential: 400 kt CO₂/year

Capture technology: Post-combustion capture by amine technology (Aker Solutions technology)

CO₂ source stream: combination of CO₂ released from calcination of limestone, combustion of coal, waste derived fuels and biomass.

CO₂ destination: After capture, CO₂ will be liquefied and stored in intermediate storage tanks. Ships will load CO₂ every 4 days for transport to Kollsnes on the Norwegian west coast. Thereafter, the CO₂ will be transported with pipeline (~100 km) for permanent offshore storage. CO₂ transport and storage is managed by the Northern Lights project.

Project timeline: Feed study for the CO₂ capture plant was delivered to the Norwegian government on October 31st, 2019. Investment decisions for the Norwegian Full-Scale CCS project is expected by end 2020/beginning 2021 [28]. CO₂ delivery for transport and storage is expected in 2024 if investment decisions are positive.



Figure 6 Norcem Brevik Cement plant⁷

3.3 Indirect calcination in cement kiln LEILAC [31], [32] (Belgium)

Project characteristics: LEILAC (Low Emissions Intensity Lime And Cement) is a EU Horizon 2020 (H2020) research and innovation project (2016-2020) that pilots a CO₂ capture technology for unavoidable emissions in the cement and lime industries. LEILAC is an example of branch-specific CO₂ capture technology.

Location: the pilot plant is hosted in a Heidelberg Cement plant in Lixhe, Belgium

Ooperator/owner: HeidelbergCement Group owns the plant where the technology is tested, the technology is proprietary of Calix. Calix is the core technology provider and project leader [33].

⁷ Picture taken from https://no.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fil:Norcem_Brevik_fra_sj%C3%B8en.JPG under Creative Commons license.



Capture capacity/potential: The pilot plant has a capacity of 240 ton/day of raw meal for cement production and 200 ton/day ground limestone, respectively. This corresponds to 76 tonnes CO₂/day. In July 2019, it was announced that the technology concept was operating successfully [33], [34]. Currently capturing around 5% of a typical cement plant's process emission, LEILAC is developing a modularised scale up approach (capable of capturing at least 20% of a typical cement plant's process emissions) with a retrofit capability, that will ultimately enable all of the cement plant calciner CO₂ emissions to be efficiently captured [35].

Capture technology: Direct Separation (Calix)[36], aims to enable the cement and lime industries to capture their unavoidable CO_2 process emissions for minimal cost. By using indirect heating, the highly concentrated CO_2 released by processing raw materials is not mixed with combustion air, and can be separated without the need for additional processes or chemicals.

CO₂ destination: within the current LEILAC project it is not planned to compress or liquefy the CO₂ separated, due to the intermittent nature of the pilot test runs [35]. The participants of LEILAC are nevertheless interested in the development of the complete CCUS chain.

Project timeline: The H2020 project lasts 2016-2020.

3.4 Drax Bioenergy and CCS (UK)[37]

Project characteristics: CO₂ capture from Drax's Biomass Generation Facility in North Yorkshire, England. The facility has four 100% Biomass Fired generators each of 670MW, providing 12% of the UK's renewable electricity in 2018.

Owner/operator: Drax Group PLC

Location: Drax Power Station, Selby, North Yorkshire, England.

Project timeline: The project is currently in feasibility stage. Pre-FEED studies on one or more technology are to begin next year, with Full FEED expected on the capture plant in 2021. Investment decisions will be taken in 2023/2024 in line with the development of UK CCUS Policy and the Onshore and Offshore Transport & Storage Infrastructure, being developed by project partners National Grid Ventures and Equinor. Project delivery of the 1st BECCS unit is expected in 2027.

Capture technology: Post combustion capture technology, amine and non-amine-based chemistries currently being assessed.

Capture capacity/potential: 4Mt/year CO₂ per unit, 16Mt/year CO₂ in total. Unit 2 is targeting deployment in 2027, deployment for Units 1, 3 & 4 planned to follow.

CO₂ destination: After capture, CO₂ will be transported into the Southern North Sea, with the Endurance field the initial storage location, the project is expected to act as the anchor project within the Zero Carbon Humber, and Project collaboration between Drax, National Grid Ventures and Equinor.

3.5 KVA Linth WtE plant (CH) [38]

Project characteristics: CO₂ capture from a waste to energy plant. It is the first candidate for CO₂ capture in Switzerland. The Waste to Energy (WtE) plant incinerates about 112 ktons of waste annually



to generate electrical power, district heating, and recycle ferrous and non-ferrous metals from the bottom ash.

Owner/Operator: 28 local communities from the Cantons of Glarus, Schwyz and St. Gallen, forming an association for waste disposal and recycling in the Linth area in Switzerland.

Location: Niederurnen (Canton of Glarus, Switzerland)

Project timeline: Preliminary study for full CO_2 capture from 2 incineration lines, including the decision for a suitable process concept, basis engineering including the implementation, mass and energy flows, and CAPEX/OPEX estimation. Realization can be independent from the time schedule for the renewal of one incineration line, depending on the political commitment and financial support from the government.

Capture technology: Amine capture; however, the applied amine still has to be evaluated.

Capture capacity/potential: 100 kt CO₂/year, approximately 50% of the CO₂ is of biological origin

 CO_2 destination: After capture, CO_2 will be liquefied and stored in intermediate storage tanks. Possibly a pipeline will deliver the CO_2 to a railway station nearby for loading railway containers. Thereafter, the CO_2 will be transported by train and brought to the transport chains of the Northern Lights project.



Figure 7. KVA Linth Waste to Energy plant⁸

3.6 ECRA CCS project (Italy/Austria)

Project characteristics: The European Cement Research Academy (ECRA) is a platform for the European cement industry to support, organize and undertake research activities within the context of the production of cement and its application in concrete. Very few, if any, cement kilns are foreseen

⁸ Picture provided by Stefan Ringmann, KVA Linth.



to be built in the future, and focus is therefore on enabling retrofit of oxyfuel CO₂ capture in existing cement kilns in Europe. ECRA is member of the board for the Norcem CO₂ capture project, thus ensuring knowledge sharing on CO₂ capture in the cement industry.

Demonstration of the oxyfuel CO₂ capture technology is planned through the retrofit of two existing cement kilns. Elements of the oxyfuel technology have been tested previously (Burner, calciner and clinker cooler⁹) but not the full oxyfuel process.

Owners/operators and Locations: First demonstration is planned in Colleferro in Italy (owned by HeidelbergCement Group), and thereafter in Retznei in Austria (owned by LafargeHolcim Group). The Colleferro kiln is currently in stand-by and uses only petcoke as fuels and has been identified as a suitable candidate for the first implementation of oxyfuel retrofit. The Retznei plant has the goal of using 100% alternative fuels [39].

Project timeline: The project is currently awaiting financing, and the timeline is therefore uncertain.

Capture technology: Oxyfuel CO₂ capture, where fuel is burnt in an oxygen-rich atmosphere rather than in air. This yields a CO₂/H₂O-rich flue gas.

CO₂ **capture capacity/potential** [40]: 842 ton CO₂/d from the Colleferro plant and 1231 ton CO₂/day from the Retznei plant (with 90% capture rate)

3.7 ACORN CCS and H₂ production (Scotland, UK) [41]

Project characteristics: The Acorn project is centred around the St Fergus Gas Terminal, in north east Scotland, where around 35% of natural gas in the UK comes onshore. Here, a hub for CCS will be established for CO₂ captured from existing industrial sources and from new hydrogen (H₂) production facilities. Thus, there are two elements of the Acorn project, Acorn CCS and Acorn Hydrogen, with Acorn CCS leading first and being operational in 2024. The ERA-NET ACT Acorn [42] project was a collaboration between eight European partner organizations to progress the project's feasibility phase. The current industrial phase of work is running until late 2020.

Owners/operators and Locations: The project is owned and operated by Pale Blue Dot Energy Ltd, with industrial contributions from both Shell and Chrysaor. The location is St Fergus Gas Terminal.

Project timeline [43]: The detailed engineering for Phase 1 of Acorn CCS is ongoing. Several proven commercial CO₂ capture technologies are being considered for capture plant which will aggregate two emission points. In Acorn Hydrogen, North Sea natural gas will be reformed into hydrogen (via SMR)[44] and CO₂ emissions will be mitigated through the Acorn CCS infrastructure. Produced hydrogen can be used for transport applications or fed into and blended with natural gas in the national transmission the gas grid [45].CO₂ injection from hydrogen production may be starting in 2024.

⁹ Tests were done in the H2020 project CEMCAP: www.sintef.no/projects/cemcap



Capture technology: Several proven commercial CO_2 capture technologies are being considered. A single capture system will process emissions from two initial sources in the gas processing terminal, with initial capture volumes of 340kt CO_2/y .

CO₂ **capture capacity/potential** [46]: The gas terminals collectively emit 600ktCO₂/y [41]. The project will start by capturing 340ktCO₂/y from 2024. Additional 500 kt CO₂/y from hydrogen production will be added a year later. Further build out from local, regional and international CO2 sources will be added subsequently.

CO² **destination**: Acorn CCS is designed to take advantage of the existing gas pipelines that can be repurposed for CO₂ transportation, and storage in the Acorn CO₂ Storage Site which has been already licensed from the regulator. The project has built out plans for a more extensive CO₂ transport and storage system to deliver a service to local regional and international emitters. The plan is to use an existing onshore pipeline (Feeder 10, 280 km, 36") to bring CO₂ captured in the Grangemouth cluster to St Fergus. In addition, CO₂ from other sites in the UK and Europe can be imported through Peterhead Port. The transportation infrastructure element of Acorn CCS is a European Project of Common Interest (PCI).



Figure 8 St Fergus Terminal¹⁰

3.8 ERVIA, Gas Networks Ireland (Ireland)

Project characteristics: Ervia, distributes natural gas through Gas Networks Ireland. The company has a 2050 vision of a net zero carbon gas network [47]. The project foresees CO_2 injection in Ireland and the possible export of CO_2 to other countries for injection in fields in the North Sea [48].

The Cork CCS Feasibility study analysed the possibility of establishing a CCS industry cluster in the Cork area, in southern Ireland, capturing CO_2 from two natural gas power plants and Irving oil refinery. The project foresees using the existing offshore gas pipeline to the depleted offshore Kinsale gas field, off the coast of Cork (decommissioning due to start in 2020). In September 2019 Ervia signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Equinor on assessing the potential for Ireland to benefit from Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) [49].

¹⁰ Picture taken from www.geograph.org.uk/photo/1695742 Licensed under the Creative Commons License



Owners/operators and Locations: Ervia and Gas Networks Ireland, in Ireland

Project timeline: The two natural gas power plants and refinery in Cork emit 2.5 Mt CO_2 /year [48]. In the 2050 vision, CCS will commence in 2028, capturing 2.8 Mt CO_2 /year in the Cork area. In 2030-2035 will add 0.6 Mt CO_2 /year from process emissions and 0.3 Mt CO_2 /year from the Whitegate Oil Refinery. Then, in 2038 additional 2.5 Mt CO_2 /year will be captured from two other power plants.

Capture technology: Not yet decided/disclosed.

CO₂ capture capacity/potential: The current vision is to start with 2.5 Mt CO₂ /year in Cork in 2028, to reach 18.7 Mt CO₂ /year in Ireland by 2050.



Figure 9 Whitegate Refinery and Power Station in Cork¹¹

3.9 Emerging CO₂ capture research consortium of cement companies [50], [51]

In November 2019, a new research consortium of four European cement manufacturers was announced. The companies are Buzzi Unicem/ Dyckerhoff (Wiesbaden, Germany), Heidelberg Cement (Germany), Schwenk (Ulm, Germany) and Vicat (Paris, France). The consortium will set up a research facility to test CO₂ capture technologies for the cement industry at a semi-industrial scale. The testing facility will be in southern Germany, but the exact location is still undisclosed.

4 CO₂ capture technologies overview

This section briefly introduces CO_2 capture technologies currently relevant for or developing towards commercial-scale applications. It is important to note that the choice of technology will be influenced not only by technology maturity but by factors such as the source of CO_2 (e.g. concentration, pressure, flowrate) and type of industrial CO_2 -emitting facility being considered for capture, where the availability of waste heat is an important parameter. The list of described technologies is not exhaustive, but it should reflect relevant technologies for large-scale applications. Examples of technologies not currently relevant for large-scale applications and therefore not described in this report are electrochemical separation, microbial and microalgae, and direct air capture [52].

¹¹ Picture taken from www.geograph.ie/photo/3476334; licensed for reuse under Creative Commons License.



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Before outlining these technologies, an introduction is given to Technology Centre Mongstad (TCM), a member of CCUS Knowledge Sharing Network, and the abilities of TCM to verify and de-risk CO₂ capture.

4.1 TCM – testing, verifying and improving CO₂ capture [53]–[56]

The Technology Centre Mongstad (TCM), in southwest Norway, is the world's largest facility for testing, verifying and improving CO₂ capture technologies. The aim of TCM is to help reduce CO₂ capture technology costs and risks before full-scale implementation. Two solvent-based post-combustion capture test facilities (~12MWe each [57], combined capacity 100kt CO₂ /year [58]) are available, namely, amine technology from Aker Clean Carbon (ACC, now Aker Solutions) [59] and a chilled ammonia process from Alstom (now GE). In addition, there is space and utilities on a third lot to test different plug-in technologies or equipment (e.g. some novel solvent, sorbent, and membrane systems). Flue gas from a gas turbine power plant (~3.5% CO₂) and from a refinery catalytic cracker (~13% CO₂), and mixtures thereof, are available for test campaigns. At TCM there are hundreds of sample points and 4000 measuring instruments connected to the control room, making possible to test advanced process control strategies. Test campaigns can be done to obtain, for example, information about solvent management, in-line process variations, environmental performance and the effect of process modifications.



Figure 10 Air view of Mongstad area, where TCM is located¹²

Since 2012, TCM has tested out technologies from Norwegian, American, Canadian, Indian, and Chinese companies, including Aker Solutions (former Aker Clean Carbon), GE (former Alstom Carbon Capture), Shell (former Cansolv), Carbon Clean Solutions, ION Engineering and Fluor. Examples of international collaboration are a contract with the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to test advanced capture technologies in TCM, a collaboration with the U.S. Department of Energy's Carbon Capture Simulation for Industry Impact (CCSI²), and a long-term collaboration with ENGIE Laborelec (Belgium). Open results from test campaigns at TCM using monoethanolamine (MEA) can be found here [60] and other research publications can be found here [61].

¹² Figure taken from https://no.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fil:Mongstad_oktober_2013.jpg under Creative commons license.



4.2 Amine capture (liquid absorption)

Post-combustion CO₂ capture with amine solvents is currently the most mature CO₂ capture technology, and it has been demonstrated at full scale [62], reaching a Technology Readiness Level (TRL)¹³ 9 as evidenced in the large scale projects in Chapter 2, compared to the lower TRLs of other technologies²⁷. It can be implemented as a retrofit option, so it can be installed in operating plants.

 CO_2 is removed from the flue gases when it reacts with a (generally amine-based) solvent to form an intermediate compound (chemical bond). In a second vessel, the solvent is regenerated with the application of heat (energy from condensing steam) producing the original solvent and a CO_2 stream [63], see Figure 11. The absorption capacity of chemical solvents such as amines is higher compared with capacities of physical solvents (described below).

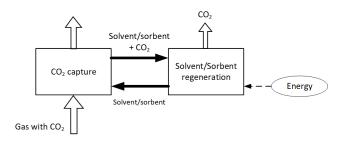


Figure 11 Separation with solvents or sorbents¹⁴

There are different commercial solvents, with different types of amine. There are also variations of the basic configuration, depending on proprietary technologies. Examples of amine-based technologies are BASF's aMDEA, Shell (used in <u>Boundary Dam</u> and to be used by Fortum), Shell ADIP-X (used in <u>Quest</u>), Aker Solutions (to be used by Norcem) and KM-CDR Process by MHI and KEPCO (used in <u>Petra Nova</u>).

The benchmark for chemical absorption has been 30 %weight MEA (monoethanolamine). However, in a recent technical report, the IEAGHG proposed a PZ+AMP (piperazine+ 2-amino-2methil-1-propanol, 1:2 molar ratio) as a new benchmark [52].

4.3 Liquid absorbents other than amines

Besides amines, there are other liquid absorbents, both physical and chemical, that can be used for CO_2 capture, with a similar process configuration as in Figure 11. With physical absorbents no chemical bonds are formed (as with amines) and CO_2 is simply dissolved physically; therefore, thermal requirements for regeneration are lower than for chemical solvents. Physical absorbents are relevant because some of them have been tested at a commercial scale and provide good results at high partial pressures [62]. Examples of physical solvents are DEPG (Dimethyl Ether of Polyethylene Glycol), MeOH (Methanol), NMP (N-Methyl-2-Pyrrolidone) and PC (Propylene Carbonate).

¹⁴ Figure made by Rahul Anantharaman, SINTEF Energy Research; modified by Adriana Reyes Lúa, SINTEF Energy Research.



¹³ TRL is a method to estimate the maturity of technologies, where TRL 1 is basic research technology (basic principles observed) and TRL 9 corresponds to normal commercial service. A description of each level can be found in [78].

Examples of technologies used at commercial scale are Selexol, in the Coffeyville Gasification Plant and the Enid Fertilizer Plant, and Rectisol in the Great Plains Synfuels Plant. Selexol uses dimethyl ethers of polyethylene glycol as solvent and Rectisol uses methanol. Other technologies are Purisol, Morphysorb. These processes are not specific for CO₂ and are considered to be for acid-gas removal.

4.4 Adsorption

With solid sorbents the CO₂ adsorbs (not absorbs) into the surface of highly porous solids. Once the solid is saturated, the solid adsorbent can be regenerated via temperature (TSA), pressure (PSA) or electrical swings. The binding of CO₂ with the solid can be physical (physisorption) or chemical (chemisorption) [52].

To implement adsorption, a series of vessels (e.g. three) are required. One is in operation mode while the others are in regeneration mode. CO₂-rich gas (e.g. syngas) is sent to the operating vessel (high pressure, low temperature), in which CO₂ is adsorbed and hydrogen-rich gas exits the vessel. Once that the adsorbent of the operating vessel is saturated, a new vessel becomes the operating vessel and the saturated vessel undergoes regeneration at a different temperature or pressure (low pressure, high temperature).

Pressure swing adsorption (PSA) is generally used with physical sorbents and is suitable for CO₂ capture at higher partial pressure [64], [65]. Low pressure can reach vacuum (vacuum-swing adsorption, VSA). In VSA, the adsorbents remove CO₂ under pressure and regeneration requires a series of pressure equalizations to reduce pressure before CO₂ is removed by a vacuum pump. This is the technology used in the <u>Air Products project at the Port Arthur hydrogen production facility.</u> [23]. Temperature swing absorption (TSA) is usually required with chemisorption, because the bond is stronger. In general, solid sorbents require less energy than liquid absorbents, but can exhibit challenges like regeneration time or space requirements [52].

4.5 Membranes

Membranes are a thin barrier over which one species is more mobile than others present in the gas mixture, and the partial pressure difference across the membrane is the driving force for separation (Figure 12). CO_2 selective membranes typically produce a CO_2 enriched stream at low pressure and a CO_2 depleted stream at high pressure [66]. The required compression equipment can be limiting for scaling up. In some cases, low CO_2 partial pressure and presence of water vapor are also challenges, whereas their modular nature is an advantage. The requirements (and TRL) for the membrane will depend on the stream³⁹. Membranes are used in the FPSO vessels in the Petrobras Santos Basin in Brazil to separate CO_2 from natural gas, but in general, membranes have a TRL of 6, and the process itself has a lower TRL [52].



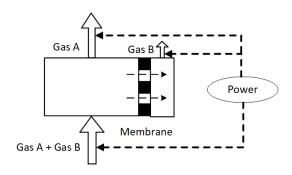


Figure 12. Separation with membranes¹⁵

4.6 Oxyfuel combustion

In oxyfuel processes, nitrogen is removed from air via an air separation process (typically cryogenic), producing nearly pure oxygen, which is used to burn the fuel, producing a flue gas of mainly CO₂ and water (steam). Water can be separated via cooling and a CPU (CO₂ compression and purification unit)³⁷. In order to meet specifications for CO₂ transport and storage, other impurities such as SOx, NOx and Hg may also be necessary to remove from the flue gas. Oxyfuel technology was first developed for power plants. A 30 MW lignite-fired oxyfuel boiler pilot plant was built and tested at the Schwarze Pumpe power plant in Germany om 2009-2014 [67]. The Unity Power Alliance IsoTherm oxyfuel process has achieved a TRL-5 with a 5-MW_{th} facility in Italy and a 15-MW_{th} facility in Singapore. For gas turbines, Allam Cycle [68] development is led by Net Power (Texas). A TRL-5 of such technology would be achieved in its 25-MWe prototype startup [69]. A 30 MW lignite-fired oxyfuel boiler pilot plant was built and tested at the Schwarze Pumpe power plant in Germany om 2009-2014 [67]. This allowed testing the oxyfuel technology together with the other integrated units (Air Separation Unit and CO₂-plant), reaching TRL-7. The largest oxy-PFBC (Pressurized Fluidized Bed Combustor) plant is a collaboration between Gas Technology Institute (GTI) and Linde has reached TRL-6 with a 1 MW_{th} pilot in Canada [52], [70]. Oxycoal power plant technologies are reported to be under trials to establish TRL-8 during the period from 2016 to 2020 [71]. Oxyfuel technology is pursued for cement in the ECRA CCS project (refer to section 3.6).

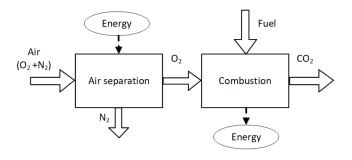


Figure 13 Oxyfuel combustion¹⁶

¹⁶ Figure made by Adriana Reyes Lúa, SINTEF Energy Research.



¹⁵ Figure made by Rahul Anantharaman, modified by Adriana Reyes Lúa, SINTEF Energy Research

4.7 High-temperature solids looping

The principle of this type of technology is a reacting solid circulating in a system of two interconnected beds.

In chemical looping combustion, the solid is a metal-metal oxide system used to transport oxygen from the air to the fuel, avoiding direct contact of air and fuel. The metal is oxidized in an air reactor, and the oxide is circulated the fuel reactor, where it reacts with the fuel. This way, the exhaust from the combustion contains mainly CO₂ and water, which are easily separated. This technology is currently at TRL4, but there are research projects to push it to TRL7 [72]. It is a type of oxy-fuel process without the need of a separation unit [73].

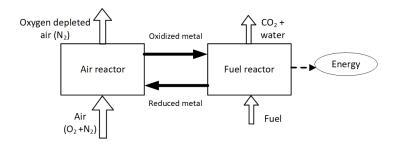


Figure 14 Chemical looping combustion 17

In post-combustion *calcium looping* (CaO/CaCO₃) the exhaust of the gas turbine enters a carbonator with CaO, which captures the CO₂, reacting into CaCO₃. CaCO₃ then is circulated to the calciner, where it is regenerated at a high temperature, releasing raw CO₂ for conditioning (and turning back to CaO) [74]. Thus, it is more likely to be applied as a retrofit technology, e.g. for cement.

4.8 HIsarna

<u>HIsarna</u> is an example of industry-specific technology, for iron and steel. In this technology, iron ore is fed to the high-temperature cyclone at the top or the reactor, where it is liquified such that it drips to the bottom of the reactor. Powdered coal is injected into the middle of the reactor, where it combines with the molten ore to produce pure liquid iron and CO_2 . It has been developed by Tata Steel (cyclone converter furnace) and Rio Tinto (smelter), and Tata Steel has full ownership of the patents. The pilot is in a Tata Steel plant in Ijmuiden (NL) and the maximum reported capacity (December 2017) is of 60,000 tonnes of liquid iron a year [75], [76].

4.9 CO₂ liquefaction (phase separation)

In low-temperature separation the CO_2 is cooled to the point where the CO_2 forms a liquid or a solid that can be separated. CO_2 liquefaction technology is suitable as a standalone for some applications where a fairly high CO_2 concentration is available in a stream, such as H_2 production with CO_2 capture

¹⁷ Figure made by Adriana Reyes Lúa, SINTEF Energy Research.



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or in combination with membranes/PSA for post-combustion capture applications in a hybrid configuration. A commercial application of the technology is the AirLiquide CryoCap technology [77].

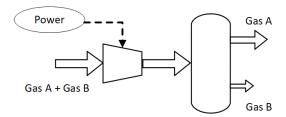


Figure 15 Phase separation through compression and cooling, CO₂ typically exits the separator as a liquefied gas (gas B), while more volatile compounds remain in the gas phase.¹⁸

4.10 CO₂ capture technology providers

Table 1 lists CO_2 capture technology providers offering industrial-scale solutions. The list should not be seen as exhaustive, but it reflects that there is a variety of technology providers in this field. Currently, most of the commercially available technologies are for post-combustion capture using liquid (amine) absorption. Each amine technology uses a proprietary solvent, which has an influence on both energy efficiency and CO_2 capture capacity. Energy integration may also differ among technologies. Furthermore, as can be seen in Table 1, there are providers of several other capture technologies on the market. As flue streams from different processes may have different characteristics (e.g. CO_2 content), it is not possible to single-out one technology as better than another.

Table 1 Industrial CO₂ capture technology providers

| Provider | Capture technologies | Comments |
|--------------------|---------------------------|--|
| Aker Solutions | Liquid absorption (amine) | Mobile test unit (MTU) continuously operated since |
| (former Aker | | 2008. |
| Clean Carbon) | | |
| BASF and Linde | Liquid absorption (amine) | OASE® is a joint project between BASF and Linde; tested |
| | | at pilot-scale. |
| Carbon Clean | Liquid absorption (amine) | Commercial technology is CDRMax™ |
| <u>Solutions</u> | | |
| Fluor | Liquid absorption (amine) | Econamine FG Plus™ (EFG+) is amine based and Fluor |
| | and physical solvents. | Solvent sM is based on a physical solvent. |
| GE (former | Liquid absorption (amine | Also developing regenerative calcium cycles and chemical |
| Alstom Carbon | and chilled ammonia) and | looping combustion. |
| Capture) | oxy-combustion | |
| ION | Liquid absorption (amine) | Seeking for partners for commercialization, tested at |
| <u>Engineering</u> | | TCM. |
| MHI (Mitsubishi | Liquid absorption (amine) | The KM CDR PROCESS is used in Petra Nova power plant. |
| Heavy | | |
| Industries) | | |

 $^{^{\}rm 18}$ Figure made by Rahul Anantharaman, SINTEF Energy Research.



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| Shell (former | Liquid absorption (amine) | Shell technologies are installed in Boundary-Dam, Gorgon |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|--|
| Cansolv) | | (Australia) and Quest |
| <u>Toshiba</u> | Liquid absorption (amine) | Pilot plant capturing 10 ton CO₂/day. Large scale plant |
| | | capturing 500 ton CO ₂ /day from thermal plant in Japan |
| | | under construction. Operation expected to start in 2020. |
| CO ₂ Solutions | Absorption (carbonic | Commercial version in softwood kraft pulp mill in Canada |
| (CSI) | anhydrase (CA)) | |
| <u>Air Liquide</u> | Physical absorption | Rectisol™ is conceived as an acid gas removal process, |
| | | which can be used for CO₂ capture. It is licensed by Linde |
| | | and Air Liquide. |
| Honeywell UOP | Physical absorption | The <u>Selexol</u> ™ process is conceived as an acid gas removal |
| <u>Selexol</u> ™ | | process, which can be used for CO₂ capture. The solvent |
| | | is a mixture of the dimethyl ethers of polyethylene glycol. |
| Honeywell UOP | Physical absorption | Used in some BECCS projects. Uses using hot potassium |
| <u>Benfield</u> ™ | | carbonate |
| <u>Linde</u> | Physical absorption | Rectisol™ is conceived as an acid gas removal process, |
| | | which can be used for CO₂ capture. |
| Air Products | Pressure swing adsorption | Vacuum swing adsorption (VSA) in the Valero Refinery is |
| | <u>(PSA)</u> | a variation of PSA by Air Products. |
| Svante | (Nano) solid adsorbents | Developed as post-combustion solution for flue gases |
| | | from of cement, steel, ammonia, aluminium, methanol |
| | | and hydrogen |
| MTR | Membranes | Developed for post-combustion CO₂ capture of industrial |
| | | flue gases, such as power plants, cement plants and steel |
| | | plants. |
| <u>Air Liquide</u> | CO ₂ liquefaction | Cryocap™ was developed to capture CO₂ from H₂ |
| | | production. |
| Air Products | <u>Oxyfuel</u> | Non-ferrous and ferrous case studies are provided on the |
| | | website. |
| Linde | Oxyfuel | TRL 8 for oxyfuel see section 4.6. |

5 Concluding remarks

With the aim to provide evidence that CO_2 capture is technically feasible and progressing, this report has summarized publicly available information of operating industrial-scale CO_2 capture projects and a selection of emerging industrial CO_2 capture and CCS projects in Europe. The facilities described in this report, as well as other emerging projects, are relevant for the demonstration of technologies and economic viability of CO_2 capture, which is one of the seven strategic blocks described in **A Clean Planet for All**, COM (2018) 733 [1].

Improving CO₂ capture through cost cuts and reduced energy penalty is a vast field of RD&I, only briefly summarized in this report, including how Technology Centre Mongstad can contribute to advancing CO₂ capture from amines as well as other CO₂ capture technologies.



A list of technology suppliers providing CO₂ capture technologies on the market has been assembled. This list shows that a range of technologies is commercially available, and ready for deployment, once a market for CO₂ capture technologies begins to develop.

The existing and emerging technologies for CO_2 capture are a necessary element for realizing CCS as a means to reduce anthropogenic CO_2 emissions and combat global warming, but not sufficient in itself – CO_2 transport and storage must obviously also be implemented for realizing CCS. The Global CCS Institute [2] and Scottish Carbon Capture & Storage [26] maintain databases with information on large and medium-scale operating and planned CO_2 capture projects, including transport and storage projects currently being developed, such as the Projects of Common Interest (PCIs) in Europe.

Additionally, for realizing CO_2 capture and storage, business models and financial viability as well as the necessary legal and regulatory frameworks must be in place. Public acceptance is also crucial. Within the CCUS Projects Network, these topics are subject to knowledge sharing, with the aim to speed up delivery of CCS and CCU, which the European Commission recognises as crucial to achieving 2050 climate targets.



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