IEAGHG Information Paper; 2012-IP3: UK CCS Roadmap

Background: DECC Press release, April 2012, including re-launch of UK Competition

On the 3rd of April, 2012, the Energy and Climate Change Secretary, Edward Davey, announced a revised UK Competition for the design, construction and operation of the UK's first commercial scale CCS plant. Also, DECC published their CCS Roadmap, setting out the steps necessary to make the UK a world leading technology supplier into the 2020's.

'UK CCS offer one of the best anywhere in the world'
Edward Davey, Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change.

Key Points of the roadmap:

- The competition, formally 'The CCS Commercialisation Programme' is targeted to drive down the costs by supporting practical experience in the design, construction and operation of a commercial scale CCS project, with £1bn capital funding, and additional support being available subject to affordability through low carbon Contracts for Difference,
- £125m funding for research and development, which includes £13m funding for the newly established UK CCS Research Centre (www.ukccsrc.ac.uk for more information),
- Plans for long term Contracts for Difference through electricity market reforms in order to drive investment in commercial scale CCS into the 2020's and beyond,
- Commitments to working alongside industry in order to address other important areas such as skills development and the development of a supply chain, storage and to assist the development of the required CCS infrastructure,
- A focus on international engagement. Learning's from other projects around the world can potentially accelerate the cost reductions needed in the UK, and in return sharing the knowledge generated through our own programme.

The plan demonstrates the UK government's commitment to CCS, and shows the intent to work with industry to make CCS a cost competitive option for emissions reduction. It promises long term opportunities, and green jobs and growth on the route to a low carbon economy.

The UK is uniquely placed to make use of vast storage potential under the North Sea, and the clusters of industrial and power station point sources in areas such as the east coast of Scotland, Yorkshire and Humber and Teeside are ideally located to form networks for capture and transport to these storage sites. The UK is a world leader in CCS research and development, and if successful, this competition and roadmap could generate benefits for UK based firms estimated at between £3 – 6.5bn a year by the late 2020's. The storage potential, together with the emission clusters, extensive offshore oil and gas experience and academic research excellence put the UK in prime position to develop a world-leading industry, and hopefully this roadmap and investment plan will enable this potential to become a reality.

Further information:

Press release: www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/news/pn12_040/pn12_040.aspx
UK CCS Roadmap:
www.decc.gov.uk/assets/decc/11/cutting-emissions/carbon-capture-storage/4899-the-ccs-roadmap.pdf
UK CCS Commercialisation Programme:
www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/emissions/ccs/ukccscomm_prog/ukccscomm_prog.aspx

Toby Aiken, 25/06/12