

PRESS RELEASE

DECC Invites Rhead Group Carbon Transport Expertise to Global CCS Conference

Pittsburgh, PA was the venue for the recent Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) R&D Workshop jointly hosted by the UK's Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) and the US Department of Energy (DOE).

An invitation only event, the workshop was led by Jeremy Martin (DECC) and J Litynski (DOE) to explain to university researchers and academics what initiatives were being funded by the two countries so education establishments (such as the UK's Cranfield, Imperial College, Leeds, Nottingham and Edinburgh universities) might effectively compete for supported funding in this rapidly emerging field.

Philip Evans, the Rhead Group's Divisional Director for Energy, was one of a small panel of commercial guest participants specifically invited for their experience of the real life progress being achieved in carbon capture storage and transportation (CCS) at an industrial scale.

Following an in depth session exploring carbon transportation and compression, Philip briefed the group on the work that is being undertaken by the Rhead Group on behalf of National Grid as part of the first UK commercial scale carbon capture storage and transportation project.

This pioneering project has ignited interest in the viability of CCS at a time when the private sector has been slow to engage in carbon capture schemes which previously had only been seen to add to the cost of a power generation project, thereby reducing the efficiency of the plant.

Attracting leading edge researchers in the field from around the world, the workshop coincided with the 9th Annual Conference on Carbon Capture & Sequestration. Now an established event on the industry's calendar, the conference provides a forum for the exchange of experience among U.S. and international scientific and engineering communities. The combination of a plenary and technical stream agenda aims to help facilitate the development of capacity within the North American public and private sector and to encourage the deployment of viable technologies. This year proved no exception with key note speakers from the US DOE, the Canadian Government, the Global CCS Institute and leading power generation providers attracting some 800-900 delegates from the US, Europe and Australasia.

Mr Evans commented: "Events like this, which encourage knowledge sharing and international collaboration between governments and the private sector, are essential if the power generation industry is to have any chance of delivering the level of investment in innovation and change that today's world aspires to". He continued "As a chartered engineer I have spent my entire career working in the energy sector but even I struggle to stay ahead of the wealth of thinking and progress being achieved every day. The contribution of bodies like the DOE, DECC, GCCL in Australia and the UK's CCSA cannot be underestimated."

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Note to editors: The Rhead Group is a privately owned consultancy providing professional services for the delivery of international construction programmes. We currently manage a portfolio worth over four billion dollars annually on behalf of clients in the energy transmission, power generation, water, defence, air & maritime and transport sectors from our offices in the UK, South Africa and the UAE.
