

Joint press release

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Electrabel, E.ON Kraftwerke and Hitachi Power Europe to build and operate a facility for testing CO₂ capture

Electrabel, E.ON Kraftwerke and Hitachi intend to cooperate in a joint research project. Target of the project is to design, build and operate a test facility to investigate the behaviour of different solvents in the process for CO₂ capture from flue gases. The main aim of the project is the execution of scrubbing tests under real flue gas conditions with different chemical solvents.

The test facility shall be able to treat up to 5,000 Nm³/h flue gas under real conditions and shall be operated during four years alternatively for periods of 12 to 24 months on a site of Electrabel and a site of E.ON Kraftwerke. The pilot installation can move to locations in Germany, The Netherlands, Belgium or other European countries whatever is technically most interesting.

Hitachi Power Europe will be responsible for the design, set up and the operation of the test facility and put at disposal sufficient staff personal for operating the test program. The test facility is a part of the global Hitachi R&D strategy for Power Systems. Targets are increase of efficiency especially for turbine and steam generator and on the other side CO₂ capture and reduction of emissions in general. Hitachi Power Europe is active in most relevant European and national research initiatives and collaborates very close with German Universities which are active in the field of materials, process improvement and CO₂ capture for climate protection.

Electrabel and EON Kraftwerke will integrate the test facility in their power plants as to perform the test programs under real conditions. The relatively large scale of the test installation will deliver reliable data as to allow scale-up.

In order to reconcile competitiveness, security of energy supply and the fight against climate change, the utilities Electrabel and E.ON Kraftwerke are basing their strategy on a diversification of energy sources and sustainable and flexible solutions. Electrabel and E.ON Kraftwerke want to maintain also in future a high fuel flexibility that currently characterizes its electric power plants. In this framework, they are interested in building knowledge and hands-on experience in Post Combustion Capture, to improve this process and prepare for possible subsequent scale-up for Post Combustion Capture on new to build or existing plants.

Electrabel is today one of the best-in-class electricity producers for limitation of CO₂ emissions per kWh (report PwC - Enerpresse - Le Quotidien de l'Énergie). With this pilot project, the company is clearly showing its intention to keep its leading position in terms of limitation of CO₂ in the future.

E.ON intends to halve their specific CO₂-emissions per kilowatt-hour by 2030 in comparison to 1990. In order to reduce carbon dioxide emissions from coal power plants significantly E.ON plans to build coal power plants from 2020 applying carbon capture and storage technology (CCS). At the moment E.ON is involved in 44 projects concerned CCS. The investment therefore amounts to 55 million Euro.

Electrabel, a European supplier of all-in, tailor-made energy solutions

Electrabel is one of Europe's front-runners in the energy sector and a leader on the Benelux market. It is capitalising on the opportunities presented by the deregulation of the electricity and natural gas markets to achieve sustainable growth in Europe whilst adhering to strict profitability criteria.

The company is currently developing its range of energy products and services by exploiting the synergies between electricity and natural gas. It offers each customer a high-quality service that is close at hand, provided through marketing subsidiaries and partnerships with local operators.

The company manages a diversified range of generating facilities totalling more than 30 000 MW, and trades on all energy markets. In Belgium, it operates electricity and natural gas networks on behalf of distribution system operators.

Electrabel is part of SUEZ, an international industrial and services group that is active in energy and the environment sectors.

E.ON Kraftwerke in short

E.ON Kraftwerke GmbH is German based, with its head office situated in Hanover. Within the E.ON group E.ON Kraftwerke is the specialist for planning, constructing und operating coal- and gas-fired power plants. The company operates power stations at more than 30 locations in Germany with an overall installed capacity of approximately 15,000 megawatts, covering 10 percent of the German demand. E.ON Kraftwerke also engineers and builds new power stations in several countries in Europe. 4,200 employees produced last year a turnover of approx. 3 billion euros.

The mission of E.ON Kraftwerke is to generate electricity reliably and in a manner that conserves natural resources. E.ON Kraftwerke therefore is constantly exploring new ways of improving the efficiency of its plants. Continuous reductions of plant emission levels are one result of this effort.

Hitachi Power Europe GmbH both plans and builds key components for fossil fuel-fired power plants, such as environmental engineering systems, utility steam generators and turbines. Hitachi Power Europe is German based, with its head office situated in Duisburg. Turnkey power plants are also included in the range of supplies. The company is rapidly expanding thanks to the pronounced demand worldwide for economical and environmentally friendly power plants and the company's strong technological position. Base for this leading position are manifold efforts in the field of research and development. Hitachi Power Europe is involved in nearly all German and European R&D projects, often in leading position.

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