

NEWS RELEASE

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BHP BILLITON AND SASKPOWER PARTNER TO ACCELERATE DEVELOPMENT OF CARBON CAPTURE & STORAGE

BHP Billiton and Saskatchewan-based electricity provider, SaskPower, today announced a partnership to accelerate the global development of carbon capture and storage (CCS) technology by sharing access to the data, information and lessons learned from SaskPower's Boundary Dam facility – the world's first full chain power sector CCS project.

Under the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed by the two companies, and subject to contractual terms, BHP Billiton would contribute to the establishment of a global knowledge centre to help promote research and reduce the cost and risk associated with new CCS projects.

BHP Billiton Chief Commercial Officer, Dean Dalla Valle, said he was excited that the company was working with SaskPower to support efforts to reduce the world's emissions.

"To respond effectively to climate change, we must develop and deploy a wide range of low emissions technologies more quickly than the usual commercial timeframes. But progress remains too slow.

"The individual components of CCS (capture, transport and storage) have been successfully demonstrated for many years but Boundary Dam is the first power project to bring all these together. Much more investment and many more projects are needed to bring down the cost of technology and accelerate its deployment. By making relevant information from Boundary Dam more widely available, we hope our contribution has a multiplier effect and promotes CCS investment around the world.

"We continue to assess other investments to support the development of CCS and other low emissions technology as part of our commitment to take action on climate change," Mr Dalla Valle said.

In welcoming the partnership Premier of Saskatchewan Brad Wall said: "We're very happy to have BHP Billiton and SaskPower seek to partner on next steps, and make CCS more accessible to the world. With private enterprises like BHP Billiton investing in low emissions technology, we are turning the tide today in Saskatchewan, and tomorrow around the world."

SaskPower President and CEO Mike Marsh said: "SaskPower's CCS journey began more than a decade ago, and today we're proud to develop this exciting opportunity with BHP Billiton."

"The intention of this partnership is to allow the CCS expertise and knowledge being developed in Saskatchewan to be shared worldwide, and what better way to do that than with a major global business leader."

Giles Hellyer, President BHP Billiton Canada Inc, said he was proud that BHP Billiton was seeking to partner with a local Saskatchewan organisation to achieve excellent work that is firmly aligned with BHP Billiton's climate change position.

“As the home of our Jansen Potash project, we have a strong connection with and commitment to Saskatchewan and it’s great to see some of the innovative work being done in the region recognised globally as part of such an important effort to reduce the world’s emissions.”

“This partnership demonstrates the strength of the work being undertaken by SaskPower at the Boundary Dam facility, the support offered by the Saskatchewan Government and BHP Billiton’s commitment to tackling climate change.

“We know there is still much more to be done in CCS, but we are encouraged by the results we are seeing today, and the innovations we are working on for tomorrow. The Boundary Dam project offers lessons for all of us and we look forward to being part of it,” Mr Hellyer said.

Further information on BHP Billiton can be found at: www.bhpbilliton.com

Media Relations

Australia

Emily Perry
Tel: +61 3 9609 2800 Mobile: +61 477 325 803
email: Emily.Perry@bhpbilliton.com

Paul Hitchins
Tel: + 61 3 9609 2592 Mobile: + 61 419 315 001
email: Paul.Hitchins@bhpbilliton.com

Eleanor Nichols
Tel: +61 3 9609 2360 Mobile: +61 407 064 748
email: Eleanor.Nichols@bhpbilliton.com

United Kingdom and Americas

Ruban Yogarajah
Tel: +44 20 7802 4033 Mobile: +44 7827 082 022
email: Ruban.Yogarajah@bhpbilliton.com

Jennifer White
Tel: +44 20 7802 7462 Mobile: +44 7827 253 764
email: Jennifer.White@bhpbilliton.com

BHP Billiton Limited ABN 49 004 028 077
Registered in Australia
Registered Office: Level 16, 171 Collins Street
Melbourne Victoria 3000 Australia
Tel +61 1300 55 4757 Fax +61 3 9609 3015

Investor Relations

Australia

Tara Dines
Tel: +61 3 9609 2222 Mobile: +61 499 249 005
email: Tara.Dines@bhpbilliton.com

Andrew Gunn
Tel: +61 3 9609 3575 Mobile: +61 402 087 354
email: Andrew.Gunn@bhpbilliton.com

United Kingdom and South Africa

Jonathan Price
Tel: +44 20 7802 4131 Mobile: +44 7990 527 726
email: Jonathan.H.Price@bhpbilliton.com

Dean Simon
Tel: +44 20 7802 7461 Mobile: +44 7717 511 193
email: Dean.Simon@bhpbilliton.com

Americas

James Agar
Tel: +1 212 310 1421 Mobile: +1 347 882 3011
email: James.Agar@bhpbilliton.com

Joseph Suarez
Tel: +1 212 310 1422 Mobile: +1 646 400 3803
email: Joseph.Suarez@bhpbilliton.com

BHP Billiton Plc Registration number 3196209
Registered in England and Wales
Registered Office: Neathouse Place
London SW1V 1LH United Kingdom
Tel +44 20 7802 4000 Fax +44 20 7802 4111

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