

# Report on the state-of-the-art of carbon capture technologies

CETP CO2RR – Deliverable 1.4 [*interim*]

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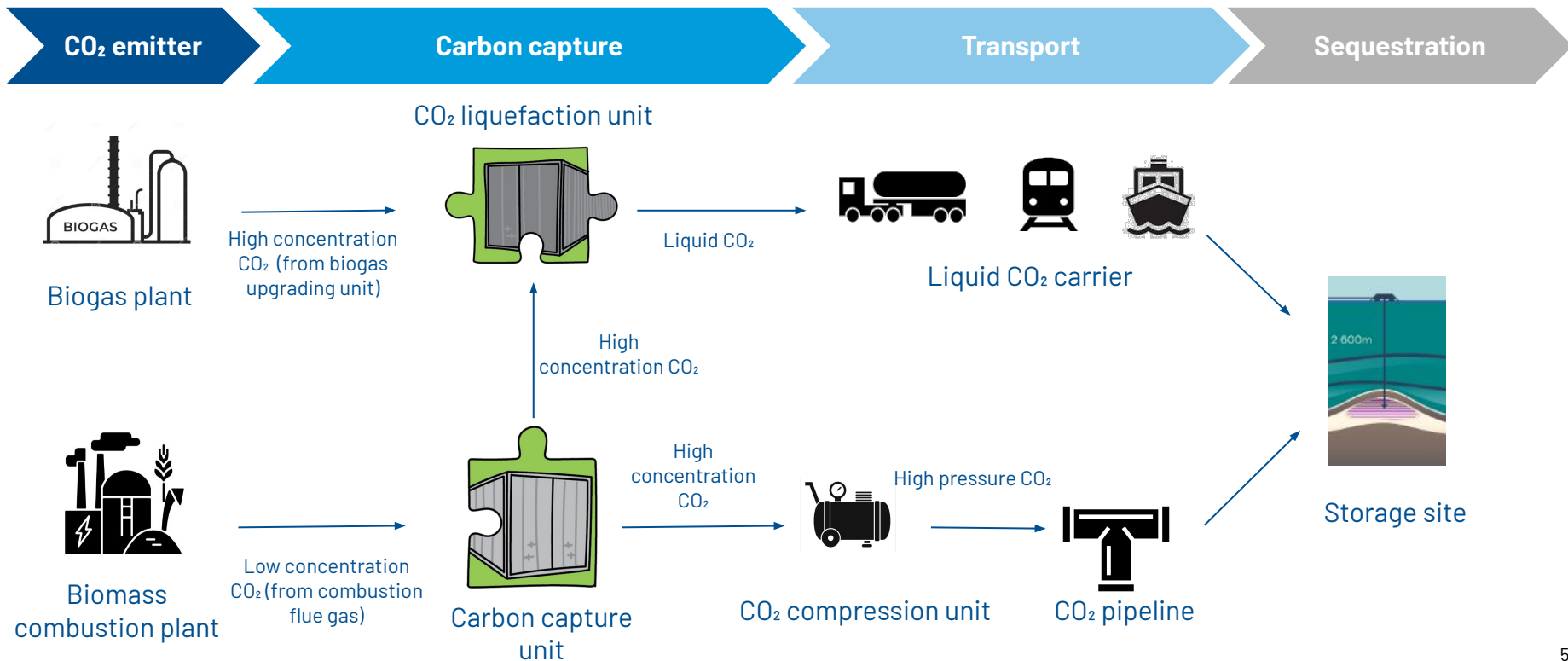
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- **Technology basics, value chain and deployment status**
- **Focus on CO<sub>2</sub> liquefaction**
- **Focus on CO<sub>2</sub> capture**
- **Key takeaways**

# **Technology basics, value chain and deployment status**

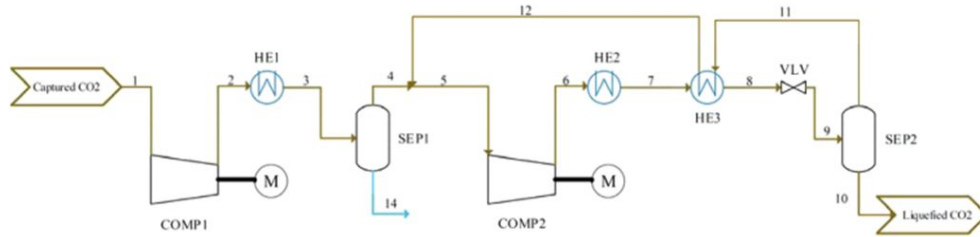
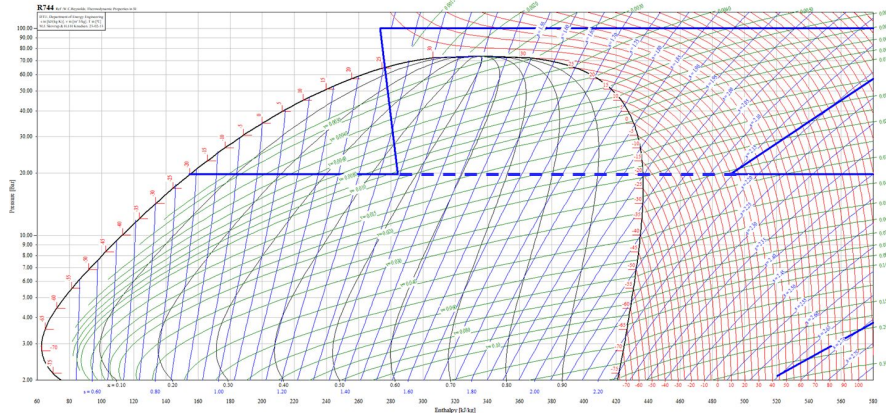
# Recap: the physical CCS value chain

CCS projects require integration of multiple steps



# CO<sub>2</sub> liquefaction basics

CO<sub>2</sub> liquefaction is a mature technology with some potential for improvement

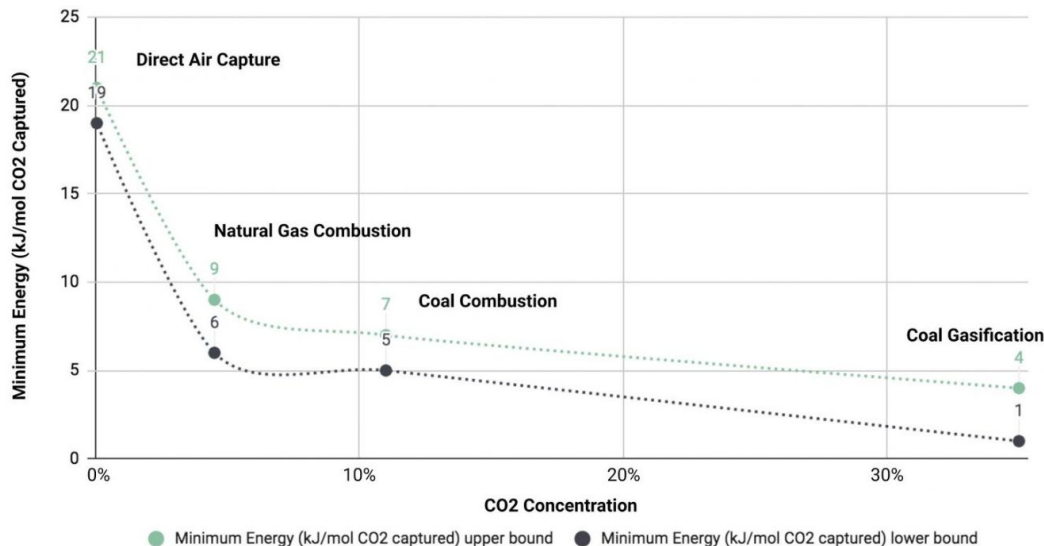


- Cryogenic liquefaction is based on known physical principles (discovered end of 19th century by Linde & Hampson)
- These principles are applied industrially to air separation, but also other gases
- **In practice, CO<sub>2</sub> is dehydrated, purified and compressed up to 20 bars, then cooled to condensation temperatures**

**Source:** [Kasra Alyion et al, 2020](#)

# CO<sub>2</sub> capture basics

CO<sub>2</sub> capture energy consumption is driven by thermodynamics



- CO<sub>2</sub> capture is a gas separation process, its energy consumption is driven by CO<sub>2</sub> concentration in the initial gas mix.
- CO<sub>2</sub> source (and concentration) is the main driver for energy consumption – the largest operational cost of capture.
- CO<sub>2</sub> capture cost is also driven by capital expenditure (CapEx), process efficiency and scale of the unit.

Source: Wilcox & all, Annual Review of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering

# Current global CCS projects status

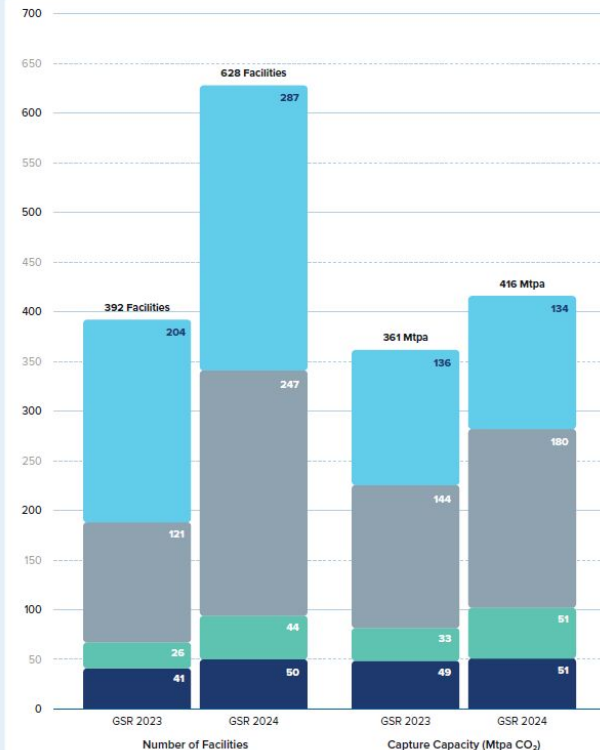
CCS deployment is slowly progressing

- **50 projects in operation**, representing **51 million** tons of CO<sub>2</sub> captured per year. **102 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>** per year operational or in construction.
- Growing pipeline of projects, with up to **365 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>** per year in construction or development.
- The majority of mature projects relate to natural gas processing and other **oil & gas applications** (refining, synfuels, etc).
- The rest of mature projects are in hydrogen/fertilizer production, bioethanol, power and industry (e.g. steel, cement, chemicals).
- Carbon removal projects (e.g. DACS, BECCS) are emerging.



Figure 3.1-1

Commercial CCS facilities by number and total capture capacity



Source: Global CCS Institute status report 2024



# Focus on CO<sub>2</sub> liquefaction

# CO<sub>2</sub> liquefaction for biogas/biomethane

Design has to be integrated with biogas upgrading and storage processes

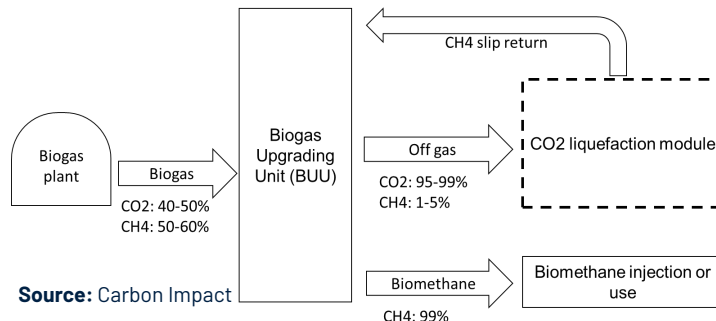
**Liquid CO<sub>2</sub> (LCO<sub>2</sub>) Quality Specifications**

Component	Unit	Limit for CO <sub>2</sub> Cargo within Reference Conditions
Carbon Dioxide (CO <sub>2</sub> )	mol-%	Balance (Minimum 99.81%)
Water (H <sub>2</sub> O)	ppm-mol	≤ 30
Oxygen (O <sub>2</sub> )	ppm-mol	≤ 10
Sulphur Oxides (SO <sub>x</sub> )	ppm-mol	≤ 10
Nitrogen Oxides (NO <sub>x</sub> )	ppm-mol	≤ 1.5
Hydrogen Sulfide (H <sub>2</sub> S)	ppm-mol	≤ 9
Amine	ppm-mol	≤ 10
Ammonia (NH <sub>3</sub> )	ppm-mol	≤ 10
Formaldehyde (CH <sub>2</sub> O)	ppm-mol	≤ 20
Acetaldehyde (CH <sub>3</sub> CHO)	ppm-mol	≤ 20
Mercury (Hg)	ppm-mol	≤ 0.0003
Carbon Monoxide (CO)	ppm-mol	≤ 100
Hydrogen (H <sub>2</sub> )	ppm-mol	≤ 50
Cadmium (Cd), Thallium (Tl)	ppm-mol	Sum ≤ 0.03
Methane (CH <sub>4</sub> )	ppm-mol	≤ 100
Nitrogen (N <sub>2</sub> )	ppm-mol	≤ 90
Argon (Ar)	ppm-mol	≤ 100
Methanol (CH <sub>3</sub> OH)	ppm-mol	≤ 30
Ethanol (C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>5</sub> OH)	ppm-mol	≤ 1
Total Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC) <sup>1</sup>	ppm-mol	≤ 10
Mono-Ethylene Glycol (MEG)	ppm-mol	≤ 0.005
Tri-Ethylene Glycol (TEG)	ppm-mol	Not allowed
BTEX <sup>2</sup>	ppm-mol	≤ 0.5
Ethylene (C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>4</sub> )	ppm-mol	≤ 0.5
Hydrogen Cyanide (HCN)	ppm-mol	≤ 100
Aliphatic Hydrocarbons (C <sub>3</sub> +) <sup>3</sup>	ppm-mol	≤ 100
Ethane (C <sub>2</sub> H <sub>6</sub> )	ppm-mol	≤ 75
Solids, particles, dust	Micro-meter (µm)	≤ 1

<sup>1</sup> Reference Conditions means, with respect to vapor above the liquid CO<sub>2</sub> in a storage tank, a pressure range from 13 bar(g) to 15 bar(g) and the corresponding temperature range of approximately from -28.5 degree Celsius to -30.5 degree Celsius, respectively. If the vapor above the liquid CO<sub>2</sub> is within Reference Conditions, both the liquid CO<sub>2</sub> and the CO<sub>2</sub> vapour in all pressure-connected storage tanks shall be deemed to be within Reference Conditions.

**Classification from original CO<sub>2</sub> spec:**

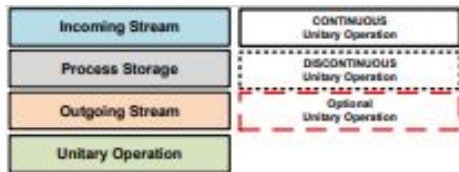
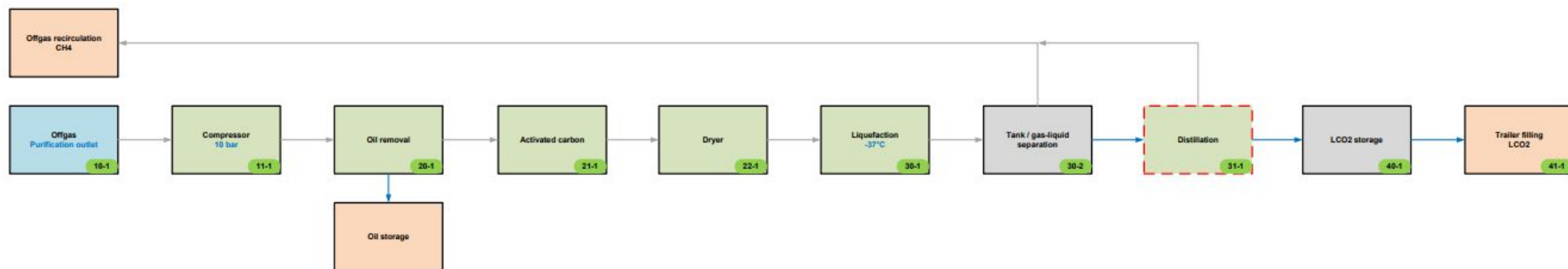
- Updated component: Water, Oxygen, Sulphur Oxides, Nitrogen Oxides, Hydrogen Sulfide, Amine, Ammonia, Formaldehyde, Acetaldehyde, Mercury, Carbon Monoxide, Hydrogen, Cadmium, Thallium, Methane, Nitrogen, Argon, Methanol, Ethanol, Total Volatile Organic Compounds, Mono-Ethylene Glycol, Tri-Ethylene Glycol, BTEX, Ethylene, Hydrogen Cyanide, Aliphatic Hydrocarbons, Ethane.
- Updated component: Carbon Dioxide.
- Moved to solids: Solids, particles, dust.
- New component: None.



- Biogas is first purified into biomethane using a BUU (Biogas Upgrading Unit); the resulting off-gas is generally vented to the atmosphere.
- Off-gas concentration depends on biogas purification process.
  - PSA (Pressure Swing Adsorption): ~95%
  - **Membranes: 98-99%**
  - Amines: 99%+
- After liquefaction, residual methane (methane slip) has to be recirculated to BUU (or biogas plant directly).
- Liquid CO<sub>2</sub> needs to be compliant with storage quality specifications (e.g. Northern Lights).

# Liquefaction process & power consumption

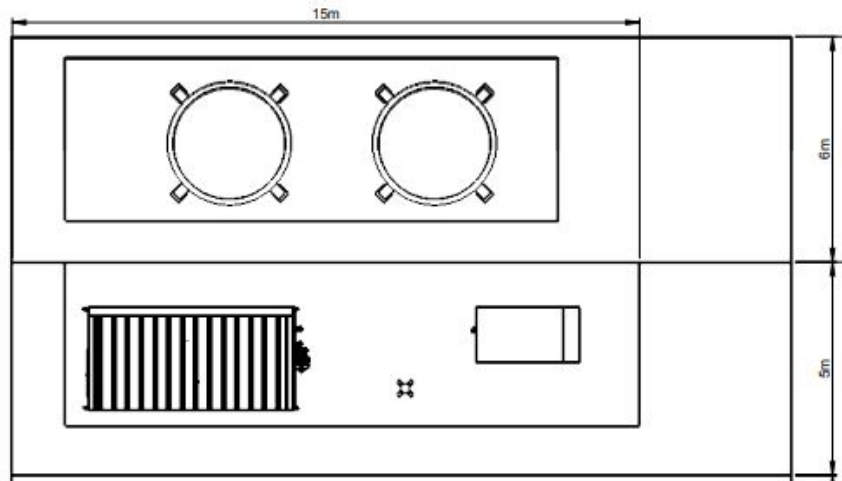
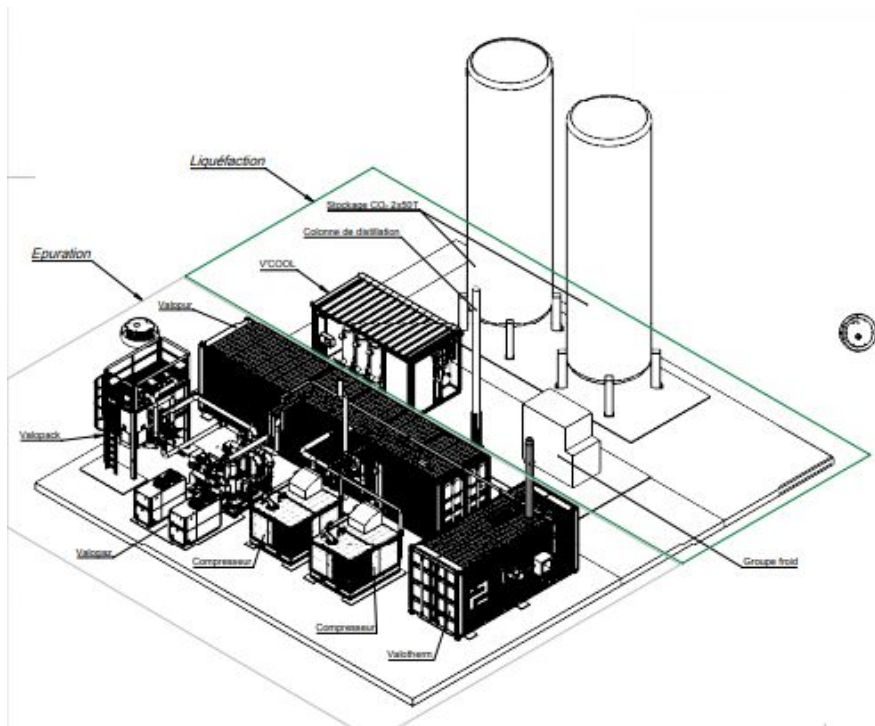
Cryogenic liquefaction consumes electrical power (comparable to biogas purification)



- The process requires electrical power for compression and liquefaction (refrigeration cycle).
- Power consumption per tonne of CO<sub>2</sub>: **250–300 kWh**

# The liquefaction footprint

Space requirement is manageable but must be planned early-on



- Typical footprint for CO<sub>2</sub> liquefaction system: **150–200 m<sup>2</sup>**
- As illustrated above, approximately half the space is used for CO<sub>2</sub> storage tanks (in the range of one week of production)

# Several CO<sub>2</sub> liquefaction suppliers are available

A growing units are installed allowing to get operational returns

## Biogas treatment specialists



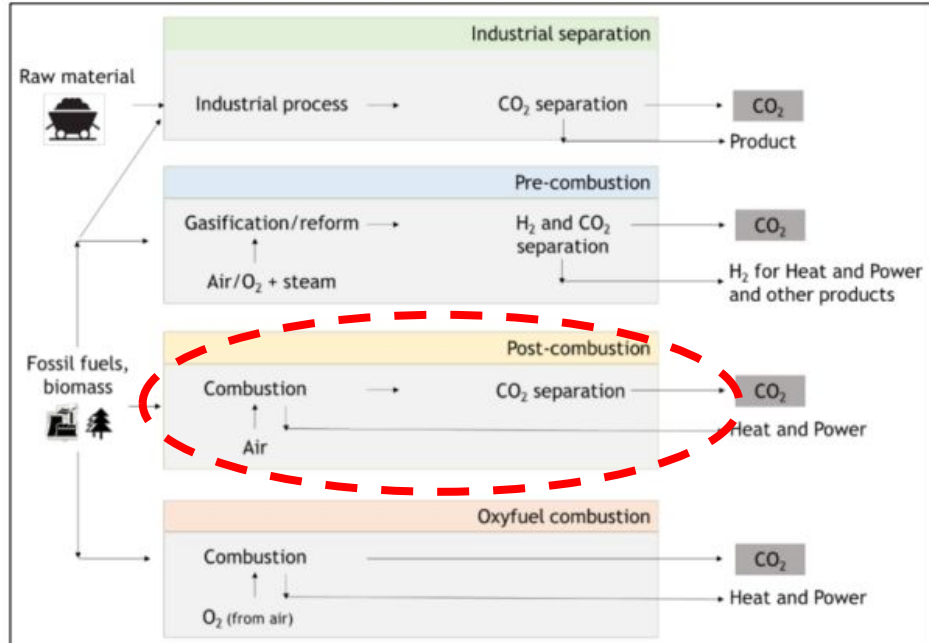
## Industrial CO<sub>2</sub> players



# Focus on CO<sub>2</sub> capture

# Carbon capture technology landscape

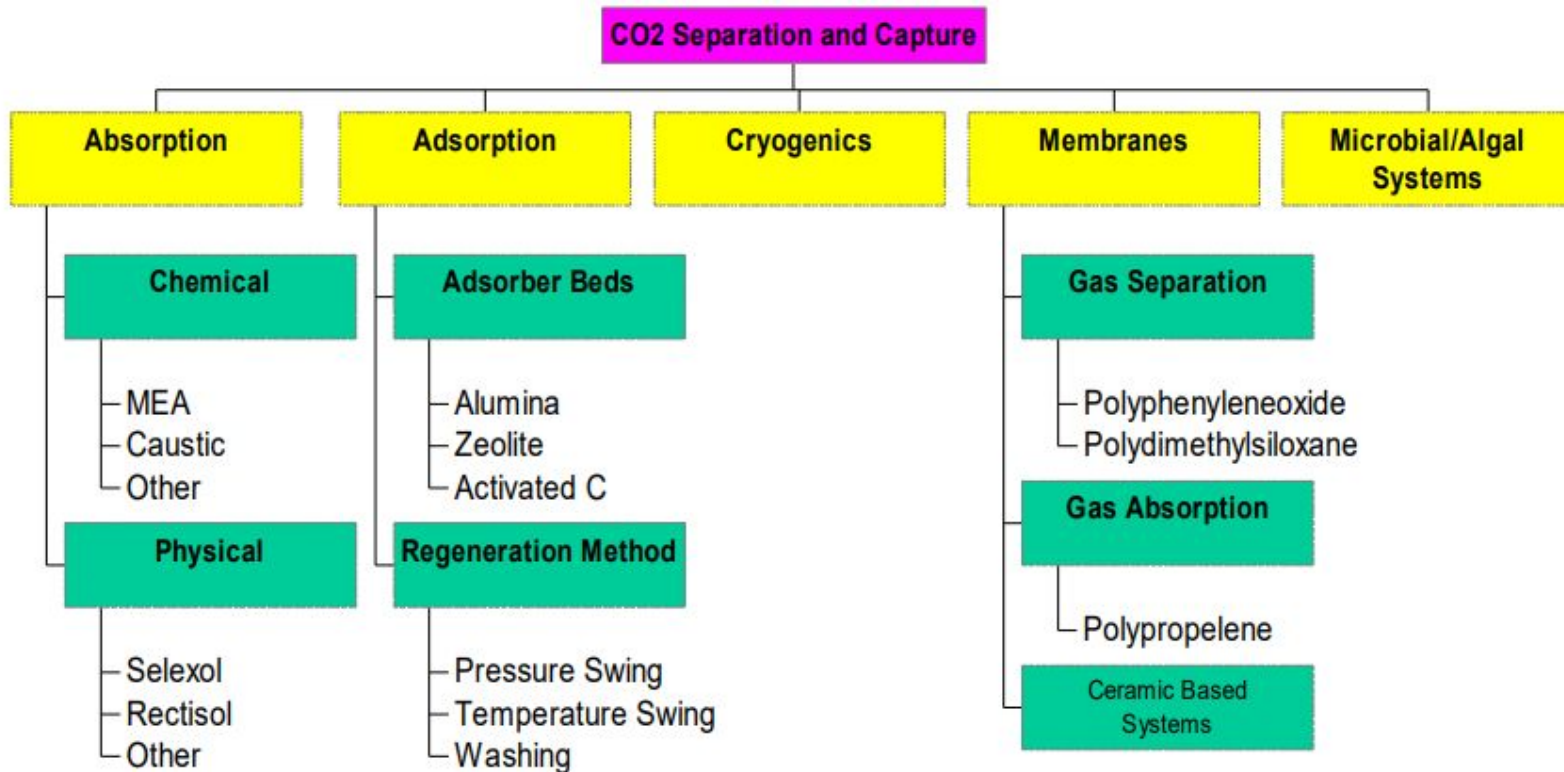
Post-combustion technology dominates current developments and deployments



- **Pre-combustion** technologies are suitable for gasification processes (Integrated Gasification Combined Cycle plants or biomass gasification).
- **Early stage as there are no commercial projects in operation.**
- **Oxyfuel combustion** processes are based on combustion using oxygen instead of air.
- They require an Air Separation Unit (ASU) to produce oxygen.
- **Needs to be demonstrated on natural gas plants before being applied to biomass combustion.**

# Post-combustion landscape

There are 5 main types of post-combustion technologies





# Post-combustion technology maturity

Liquid solvents are the most advanced post combustion technology

Technology		TRL	Development trend
Gas-Liquid absorption	Aqueous amines	6 – 9	→
	Amino-acid salts	6	↑
	Ionic liquids	4	↓
	Water-lean absorbents	5	↑
	Demixing solvents	4 – 5	↑
	Precipitating solvents & aqueous carbonates	4 – 6	→
Membranes	Polymeric membranes	6	↑
	Membranes contactors	5 – 6	→
	Hybrid processes	6	↑
Gas-solid adsorption	Pressure Swing Adsorption (PSA)	6	→
	Temperature Swing Adsorption (TSA)	6	↑
Calcium looping		6	→
Cryogenic processes (cooling and liquefaction)		5	→
Micro-algae based processes		4	↓

- **Post-combustion carbon capture is now an established technology**, based on decades of industrial deployment in the oil and gas sector
- Technology selection **depends on CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations and gas composition** (e.g. concentration of impurities).
- For combustion flue gas, **liquid absorption with solvents (mostly amine-based)** is reaching commercial maturity
- **Alternative solvents** are developing (e.g. hot potassium carbonates, demixing solvents), but their deployment is less mature.

# Other technologies to look-out for

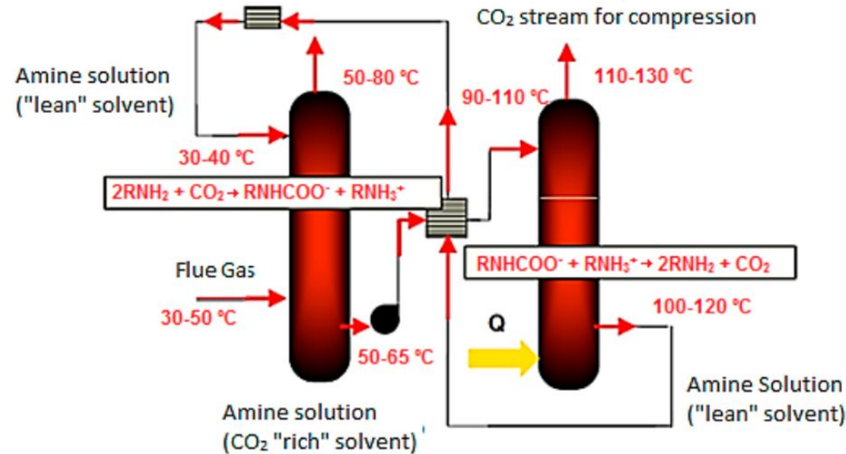
Current liquid solvents limitations create space for innovative approaches

- **Solid sorbents** based on porous materials (e.g. zeolites, MOFs) claim improved energy and environmental performance, but this still needs to be proven at scale.
- **Cryogenics** are mature for high-concentration applications (e.g. steam methane reforming for H<sub>2</sub> production); applications for flue gas are emerging.
- **Membranes materials** are developing fast (with alternatives to polymers e.g. graphene oxides).
- **Algae-based methods and calcium looping** seem less promising at this stage with a decreasing dynamic.
- Longer-term novel approaches based on **electrochemistry** (e.g. electroswing absorption) need to be monitored.

Method	Mechanisms	Advantages	Shortcomings
CO <sub>2</sub> capture	Adsorption	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Low waste generation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Energy inefficient</li> <li>• Flue gas pre-treatment necessary before channeling to adsorber due to high moisture content and presence of contaminants (e.g., SO<sub>x</sub> and NO<sub>x</sub>)</li> <li>• Powdered MOFs have low mechanical strength and difficult handling</li> </ul>
	Chemical absorption	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High CO<sub>2</sub> solubility</li> <li>• Thermally stable</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High solvent loss due to evaporation</li> <li>• React with components other than CO<sub>2</sub>, like SO<sub>2</sub> resulting in irreversible degeneration of solvent</li> <li>• High energy consumption for solvent regeneration</li> <li>• Thermally unstable</li> <li>• Equipment corrosion</li> <li>• Cost intensive</li> <li>• Difficult to scale-up ionic liquids</li> </ul>
Membrane technology		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High porosity crystallinity and high surface area</li> </ul>	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmentally safer as substitute the use of hazardous solvents</li> </ul>	
Cryogenic separation		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High separation efficiency and packing density due to the small installation requirements</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Energy intensive as cooling of hot flue gas is essential</li> <li>• High moisture content in the flue gas affects membrane performance due to competitive sorption and plasticisation of the polymer</li> <li>• High membrane cost, fouling of membrane and high membrane surface area requirement</li> </ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consecutive refrigeration and condensation of gas mixture at different condensation temperatures to separate CO<sub>2</sub></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High energy requirement for refrigeration</li> <li>• Flue gas moisture removal is required before cooling to avoid plugging by ice formation</li> <li>• Solidified CO<sub>2</sub> is continuously built up on the heat-exchanger surfaces and needs to be removed.</li> </ul>

# Absorption with liquid solvents

Solvent-based liquid absorption is the most mature technology



## Basic principle (two-step cyclical process):

1. CO<sub>2</sub> from flue gas reacts with a basic solution (generically amines or R-NH<sub>2</sub>).
2. CO<sub>2</sub> is then separated from the solution using energy (heat).

### 1) Absorber:

Flue gas containing CO<sub>2</sub> enters a packed bed absorber from the bottom and contacts in counter-current with a CO<sub>2</sub>-lean absorbent.

### 2) Regenerator:

- The CO<sub>2</sub>-rich absorbent flows into a stripper for thermal regeneration.
- After regeneration, the CO<sub>2</sub>-lean absorbent is pumped back to the absorber.

# Considerations for liquid solvents

The technology faces a number of limitations

- High energy consumption: **1–1.5 MWh/tonne** CO<sub>2</sub> ( of which 80% heat)
- Requires **heat at 120°C**
- Solvent needs to be regenerated, can be degraded by heat, moisture and impurities
- **Pollutants** to be monitored (e.g. NH<sub>3</sub>, nitrosamines) in particular for amine solvents (Hot Potassium Carbonate solvents have low toxicity)
- **High CapEx**, in particular for smaller installations
- Significant footprint: e.g. **1,500 m<sup>2</sup>** for 150,000 tonnes per year CO<sub>2</sub> with **tall** absorption columns (**up to 60m**)

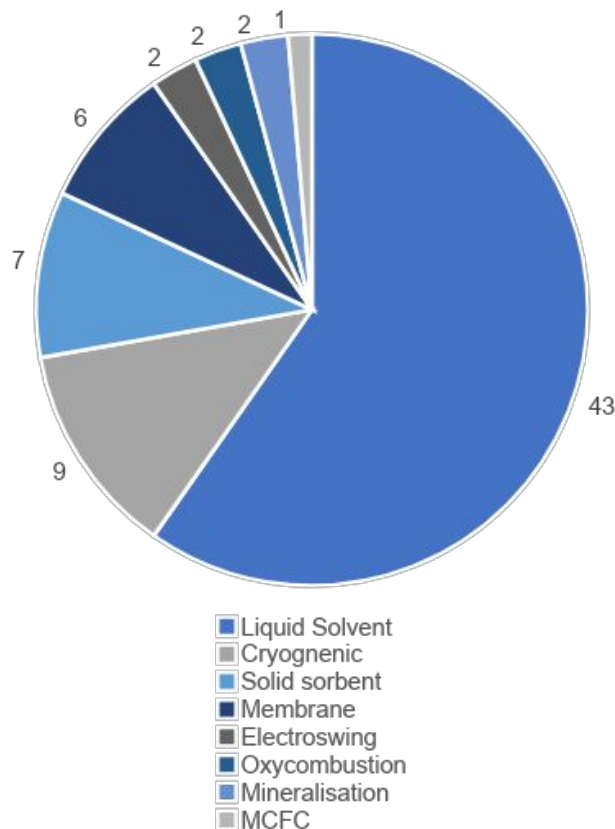
## Capture

Petra Nova CCS project in US  
(240 MW coal unit, MHI technology, stand-by)



SaskPower Boundary Dam 3 CCS project in Canada  
(115 MW coal unit, Shell technology, in operation)

# Landscape of suppliers by technology



- We have identified close to 80 active vendors internationally.
- Different stages of maturity: from commercial offering to low TRL vendors
- The landscape is dominated liquid solvents in particular amines.
- Next categories are cryogenic solutions, solid sorbents and membranes.
- Other categories are more limited.

# Sample of suppliers

By technology family

## Liquid Solvents

Amines or other amine based liquids



Other solvents



## Other methods

Solid sorbents



Cryogenic



Membranes



Other





# Example of CCS project: AVR Duiven

- [AVR Duiven](#), Waste to Energy plant in the Netherlands, 50,000–60,000 tCO<sub>2</sub> per year
- CO<sub>2</sub> used for greenhouses
- Solvent Technology (amines) by manufacturer TPI
- Footprint: 45 m x 37 m ~ 1700 m<sup>2</sup>

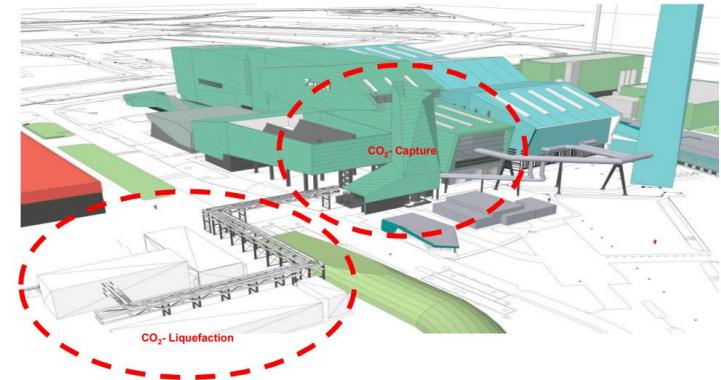


# Example of CCS project: Twence

- Twence, Hengelo, Netherlands, 100,000 tCO<sub>2</sub> per year
- Solvent technologies (amines) by Aker (now part of SLB)
- CO<sub>2</sub> used for greenhouses
- Footprint : ~ 30m x 15m (450 m<sup>2</sup>)



## 4. CCU – Artist Impression





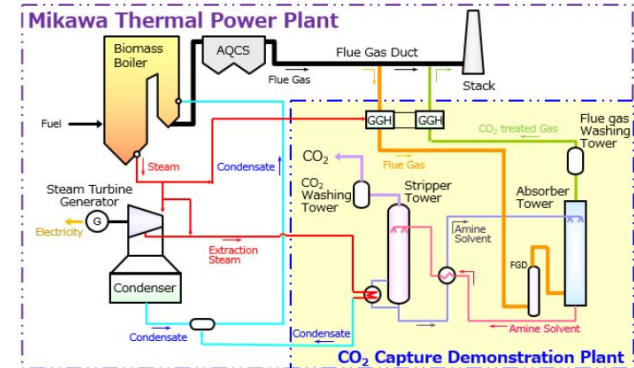
# Example of CCS project: GGL (ex Frames)

- DES BV, Netherlands, 12,000 tCO<sub>2</sub> per year
- Commissioning in 2019 (based on Vyncke boiler), CO<sub>2</sub> used for greenhouses
- Amine sorbent (Green Gas Liquids has purchased Frames capture technology)
- Footprint: 15 m x 5 m (excl liquefaction)
- Energy consumption (heat): 1.6 MWh/tCO<sub>2</sub>



# Example of BECCS pilot: Mikawa, Japan

- First operational BECCS project run by **Ministry of Environment in Japan**
- CO<sub>2</sub> capture demonstration plant based on 49 MW biomass plant
- Operation started in October 2020
- **600 tCO<sub>2</sub>** per day captured
- Regeneration heat consumption: **0.7 MWh per tCO<sub>2</sub>**
- Heat provided by steam turbine extraction
- Technology provided by **Toshiba** (proprietary TS-1 solvent)
- Footprint: **4,050 m<sup>2</sup>** (45x90m)



# Example of alternative solvent: Axens

- Amine based demixing solvent developed by Axens (DMX) allowing 30% lower thermal energy consumption and less corrosive than amines
- Pilot operational in steel plant in France (4,000 tCO<sub>2</sub> per year) based on blast furnace gas
- Demonstration project has confirmed initial assumptions and performance in the field

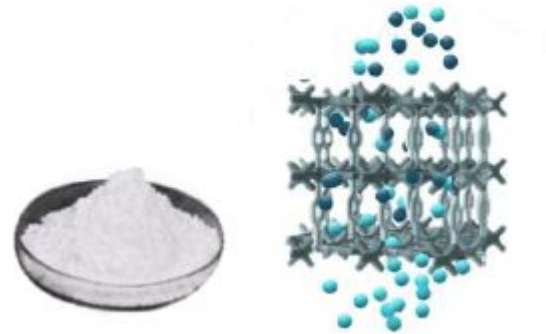


Module of DMX™ Demonstration Pilot Plant



# Example of solid sorbent pilot: Svante

- Solid sorbent separation technology with MOFs (Metal Organic Frameworks)
- 10,000 tCO<sub>2</sub> per year pilot in Canada
- Optimised energy consumption using lower temperatures heat sources than amine solvents

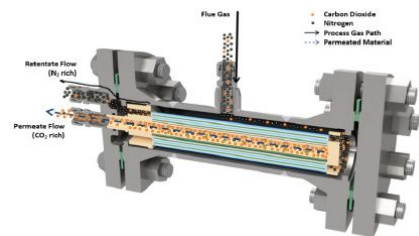


# Example of membrane pilot: Ardent

- Modular, low pressure membrane CO<sub>2</sub> separation technology, tolerant to various pollutants
- High flow of gas at low pressure allows smaller footprint
- Pilot plant at an olefin and (and pilot rig at steel facility)
- Lower energy consumption than solvents: 570 kWh per tCO<sub>2</sub> of electrical power



↑ OPTIPERM™ CARBON PILOT RIG AT A STEEL PRODUCTION FACILITY





# First learnings from early projects

- Current projects in operation and constructions are still pioneers: project complexity, large footprint, need for flue gas treatment (dust, Nox, Sox), liquefaction and storage, CO<sub>2</sub> purity.
- Energy consumption is still an issue at close to 1+ MWh per tCO<sub>2</sub> (mostly thermal energy) which imposes high losses or complex integration processes.
- With liquid solvents full capture costs are still in the 100–150 euros per tCO<sub>2</sub> (valid for 100,000 tCO<sub>2</sub> per year).
- However lots of learnings are allowing existing and new vendors to learn and improve.
- Potential electric powered solutions (e.g. solid sorbents or cryogenics) with much lower energy consumptions may be on the horizon (commercial in 2030s).

# Key takeaways



# Key takeaways

Learning through the  
first cycle of  
deployment

- Carbon capture is a very active field of research, innovation, pilot and increasingly commercial deployments.
- Post-combustion technologies are reaching maturity with solvents (e.g. amine-based, hot potassium carbonates and others) becoming standard and ready to deploy in the next years.
- However, solvents have areas of improvements (in particular energy penalty) which open the door for other methods slightly lower in technology maturity, potentially available in the next decade, such as cryogenic (for low concentration), solid sorbents, membranes.
- Longer-term electrochemical methods may offer an interesting fully electric alternative but it is still (very) early days.

A low-angle, upward-looking photograph. On the left, the white, curved nacelle of a wind turbine dominates the foreground. To the right, a complex industrial structure with several large, horizontal, silver-colored pipes is visible. The background is a bright blue sky with scattered white clouds. The overall composition suggests a focus on clean energy and industrial innovation.

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**For carbon capture, the  
time is now, for  
learning by doing  
(and improving)**