



PRESS RELEASE

A major milestone for CCS in Europe

Norwegian Government proposes launch of 'Longship' CCS project, a step in the right direction for climate action and developing CCS in Europe

Brussels, 23 September 2020 – A proposal from the Norwegian Government to launch a carbon capture and storage (CCS) project in Norway, entitled 'Longship', symbolises a major milestone for the development of CCS in Europe and the Government's strategy for climate action. CCS will be crucial in the transition to reach climate-neutrality by 2050, while ensuring industrial activity and economic growth, and safeguarding jobs.

The Longship project will see investments in building new CO₂ transport and storage infrastructure, which can unlock opportunities for large-scale decarbonisation. The Longship project foresees capturing CO₂ from HeidelbergCement Norcem's cement factory in Brevik and Fortum Oslo Varme's waste incineration facility in Oslo and transporting it for offshore storage in the North Sea basin. This will be operated by Equinor, Shell, and Total.

The adoption of low-carbon technologies at industrial scale is what the European Strategic Energy and Technology Plan (SET-Plan) aims to realise by bringing together the European Commission and national authorities, industrial, societal and research stakeholders. One of the priorities for the SET-Plan is Carbon Capture Storage and Utilisation, and specific targets for its deployment in Europe in the 2020s and R&I priorities have been outlined. The CCUS SET-Plan has a mandate to follow this work and delivery of targets.

William Christensen, Co-Chair CCUS SET-Plan and Head of Research and Technology Section in the Norwegian Ministry of Petroleum and Energy, stated: *"The Norwegian Government confirmed its commitment to the development of CCS with Longship, the first large-scale CCS project in Europe. This is one of the targets we need to deliver in the SET-Plan. We hope that this is the first of many CCS project initiatives in Europe over the next years."*

Dr Graeme Sweeney, Co-Chair CCUS SET-Plan and Chairman of ZEP, added: *"We would like to extend our congratulations to Norway and the companies involved in the Northern Lights CO₂ transport and storage project. The Longship project signals an essential development for Europe, particularly as ambitions to reduce emissions are increasing. CCS projects can contribute to a climate-neutral EU economy, not decades ahead but today."*

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CCUS SET-Plan, Implementation Working Group 9 (IWG9)

IWG9 is responsible for promoting research and innovation activities for CCUS in the European Strategic Energy and Technology Plan (SET-Plan). Since 2017, the IWG9 was composed of 11 SET-Plan countries (Czechia, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Norway, the Netherlands, Turkey, Spain, Sweden and the UK), industrial stakeholders, non-governmental organisations, and research institutions, and it is chaired by the Netherlands, Norway and the Zero Emissions Platform. The IMPACTS9 (Horizon2020 Grant Agreement no. 842214) consortium combines the expertise of four partners (CCSA, BGS, Sintef, CO2 Value Europe) serves as an 'operational arm' for the CCUS SET-Plan.

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