

## Paris CCS week in the limelight

In the first week of October 2007 Paris became the spotlight of worldwide CO<sub>2</sub> Capture and Storage community. Three important events took part here, attracting stakeholders of all categories – industry representatives, researchers, NGO environmentalists, politicians and regulators.

On 3 October the historical building of Salons Hoche hosted the 2<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly of the European Technology Platform on Zero Emission Fossil Fuel Power Plants (ETP ZEP), a grouping of European industry, NGOs, scientists and environmentalists, set up 2 years ago by the European Commission. The platform presented the European Flagship Programme, a series of 10 – 12 full-scale demonstration fossil fuel power plants fully equipped with the CO<sub>2</sub> Capture and Storage (CCS) technology that should be in operation by 2015. This is the first step towards fulfilling the ETP ZEP Vision “To enable European fossil fuel power plants to have zero CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 2020”.



*Photo: ETP ZEP General Assembly at Salons Hoche*

The introductory speeches (among others by the UK Minister of Environment and EC representatives) declared political support to the CCS technology both by national governments and the European Commission. The Commission is ready to support the Flagship Programme indirectly, by providing incentives like incorporation of CCS into the European Emission Trading Scheme, by modifying existing and adopting new legislation making CCS possible, by co-financing CCS-focused research or by allowing the Members

States to provide direct support to CCS projects. No direct financial EC support, however, should be expected.

The Flagship Programme is a big opportunity, and a big challenge at the same time, for the European geo-energy R&D community, which is expected to provide the necessary knowledge for preparing sufficient and safe storage sites for the captured CO<sub>2</sub>.

The second part of the event was devoted to presentations of industrial CCS initiatives, the candidates for the Flagship Programme, and was concluded by an interesting panel discussion. In the evening, around 250 delegates of the Assembly enjoyed a joint cocktail dinner with the participants of the 2 other events (see below) at the Le Meridien Etoile hotel. The presentations from the ETP ZEP General Assembly are available at <http://www.zero-emissionplatform.eu/website/eventarchive/GA2programme.html>.

On the same day, in one of the neighbouring conference rooms of Salons Hoche, the CO<sub>2</sub>GeoNet Network of Excellence, the leading European grouping of CO<sub>2</sub>-storage-oriented researchers, organised a Training and Dialogue Workshop on CO<sub>2</sub> geological storage entitled “what does CO<sub>2</sub> geological storage really mean?”. Around 170 participants could listen to 6 presentations providing comprehensive answers to the basic questions connected with geological storage of CO<sub>2</sub>:

- How much CO<sub>2</sub> can be stored and where?
- How to inject CO<sub>2</sub> ?
- What will be the fate of the injected CO<sub>2</sub>?
- Could CO<sub>2</sub> leak and affect ecosystems ?
- How to monitor the stored CO<sub>2</sub> and potential leakages ?
- What safety criteria should be applied ?

The audience, embracing researchers, technicians and regulators, obtained a very good overview of the principles, advantages and still open questions of the final step of the CCS process. The presentations can be found online at <http://www.co2geonet.com/NewsData.aspx?IdNews=21&type=Actual>.

On 4 – 5 October the Le Meridien Etoile hotel witnessed the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Symposium on Capture and Geological Storage of CO<sub>2</sub>, organised jointly by IFP, ADEME and BRGM, under patronage of several French ministries, the European Commission, the International Energy Agency and the Ile-de-France region. The Symposium was divided into four sessions covering all the important parts of the CCS deployment process: Issues and strategies for controlling greenhouse gas emissions, Industrial achievements in the field of CO<sub>2</sub> capture and storage, Future developments: positioning of the industry and technological breakthroughs, and The structuring of the CO<sub>2</sub> sector: market, regulations and societal perception. The speakers represented the real leaders of the CCS community. In addition to European points of view, the presenters from the USA, Australia, Canada and Brasil brought interesting perspectives from other parts of the world.

With around 400 participants, 26 presentations and the final summarizing session in the presence of the French Minister of Environment, this Symposium is becoming one of the most important CCS events in Europe. The presentations are now available online at [http://www.colloqu coast2.com/IFP/en/CO2site/program\\_va.htm](http://www.colloqu coast2.com/IFP/en/CO2site/program_va.htm).

*Vit Hladik*