



Membrane Hybrid Process for Deep Decarbonization of Industry

(DE-FE0032462)

Jay Kniep, Pingjiao Hao, Robert West, Tim Merkel
Membrane Technology and Research, Inc.

Project Kickoff Meeting

January 29, 2025

Presentation Outline

- Project overview
- Technology background
- Project objectives
- Project approach/work plan
- Wrap up

Project Overview

Award name: Membrane Hybrid Process for Deep Decarbonization of Industry (DE-FE0032462)

Project period: 12/1/24 to 11/30/28

Funding: \$7.0 million DOE; \$2.6 million cost share (\$9.6 million total)

DOE program manager: Andy O’Palko

Participants: MTR, St. Marys Cement, Sargent & Lundy, Trimeric, TDA

Project scope: Conduct a 3 tonnes CO₂/day pilot test of MTR’s CO₂ capture hybrid process applied to the St. Marys Cement plant in Charlevoix, MI

Project plan: The project is organized in three budget periods:

- **Budget Period 1** – Design (12 months)
- **Budget Period 2** – Fabricate System/Site Preparation (18 months)
- **Budget Period 3** – Install/Operations/Decommissioning/Reporting (18 months)

Roles of Participants

- **MTR** – project lead and liaison with DOE; responsible for membrane skid design, fabrication, installation, and operation; coordinate all activities; will lead data analysis and all reporting to DOE
- **St. Marys Cement** – host site for the 6-month field test at their Charlevoix, MI cement plant; will aid in site engineering design and support all activities at site
- **Sargent & Lundy** – Manage site engineering design and preparation work, system installation, and decommissioning activities
- **TDA** – sorbent technology developer; lead design and fabrication of sorbent skid; support system operation, analysis, and various project reports
- **Trimeric** – support and prepare project initial TEA, final TEA, and EH&S risk assessment reports

MTR Carbon Capture Development History

15 Year

Relationship
with DOE

20+

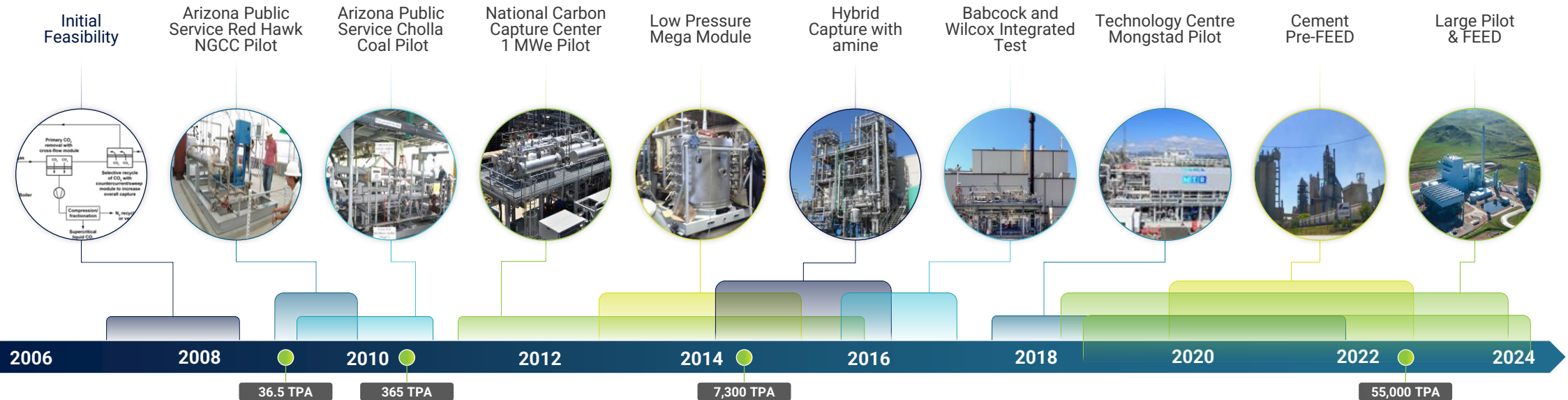
DOE Awards
Won

>\$140mm

Total Funding
Received from U.S.
Government
Agencies

- Support from the DOE has helped bring MTR's capture technology from early concept to the point of commercialization
- Over this time, the membrane capture system capacity has been scaled up by more than 3 orders of magnitude

Development Timeline

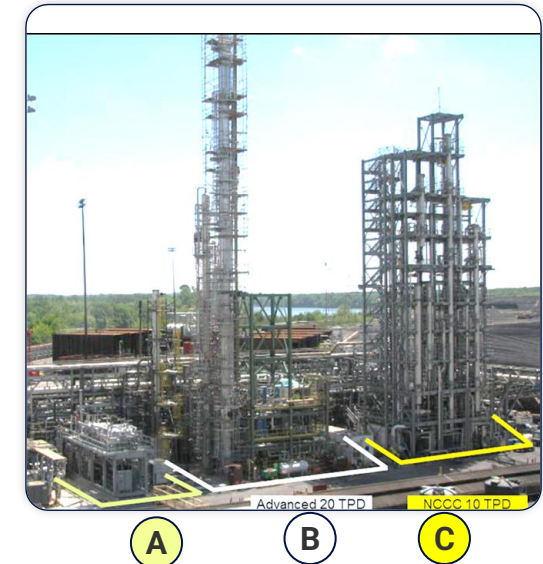


Membrane Advantages for Carbon Capture

Key Advantages

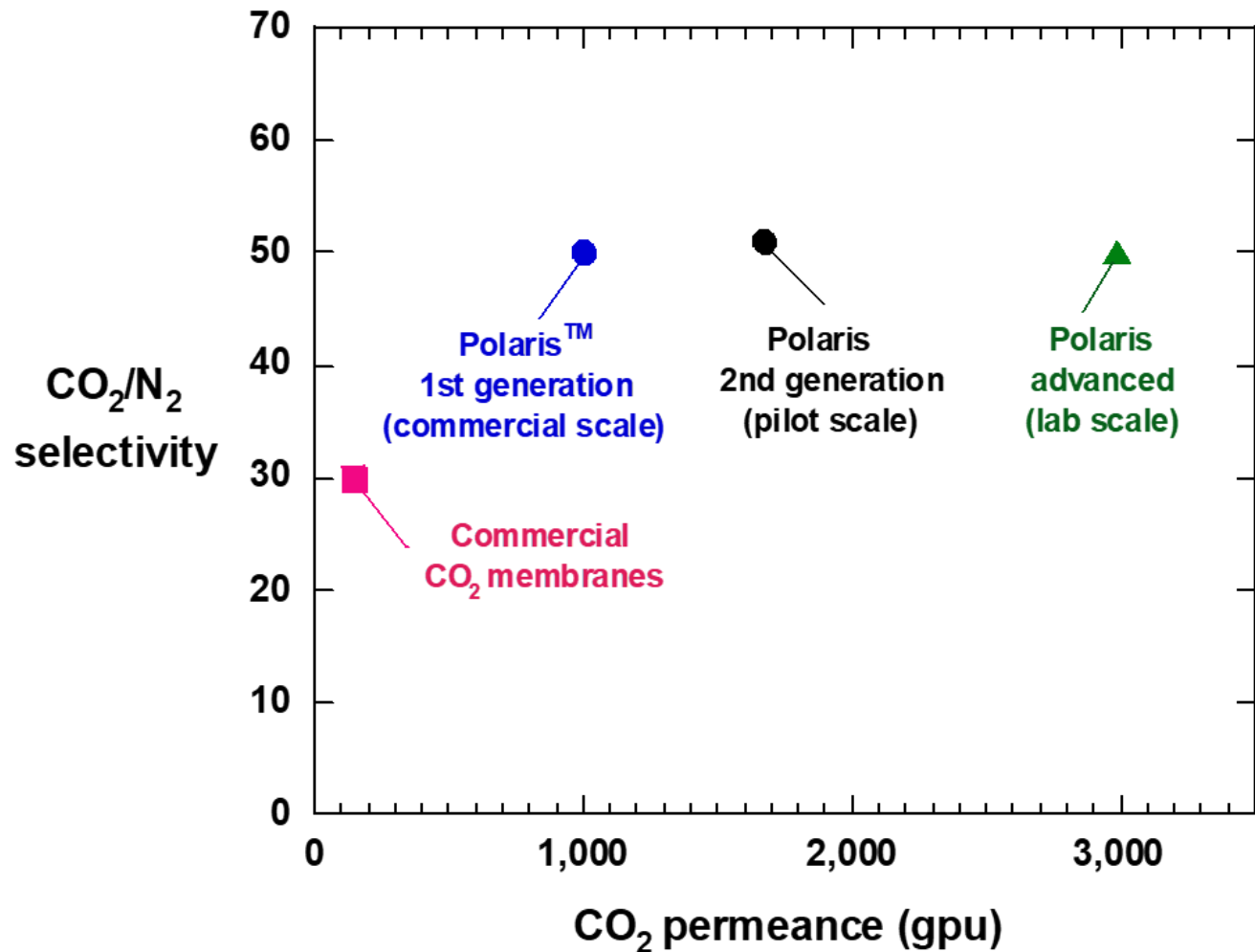
- **A clean approach to carbon capture:** No chemical handling, emissions or disposal issues / easier permitting than typical solvent systems
- Recovers water from flue gas; ideal for arid locations
- A modular technology with a flexible footprint – without tall, heavy towers – that is easily scalable
- Uses only electricity, so can be powered by renewables; no fossil fuel for steam required
- Offer high turndown and rapid response times, making membranes ideal for load following or intermittent industrial processes

Pilot Test at US National Carbon Capture Center



- (A) MTR
20 TPD System
- (B) Advanced Amine
20 TPD System
- (C) Standard Amine
10 TPD System

MTR Polaris™ Membranes are Very Permeable

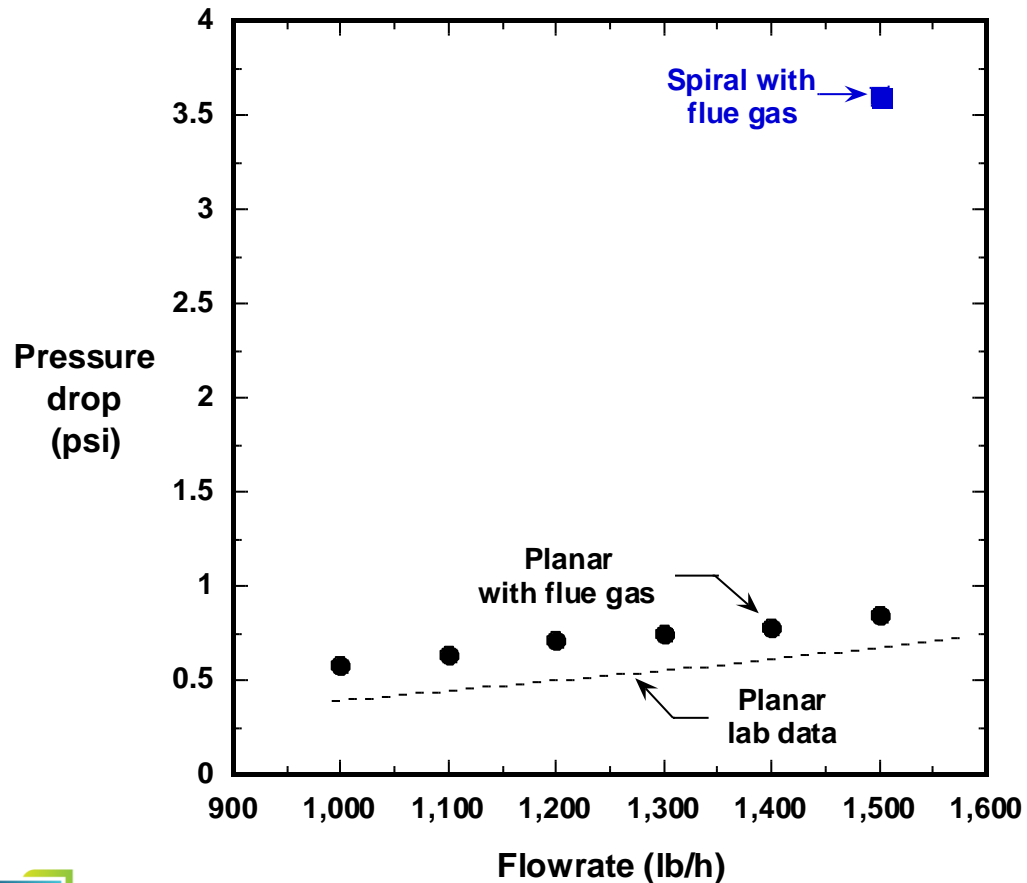


1 gpu = 10^{-6} cm³(STP)/(cm² s cmHg) = 3.35×10^{-10} mol/(m² s Pa)

- Original Polaris about 10X more permeable than prior commercial membranes for CO₂ / natural gas separations
- 1st generation Polaris now used commercially in shale gas and refinery applications
- Gen-2 Polaris demonstrated at TCM field test and WITC Large Pilot
- Ongoing research shows even better performance at lab scale; potential for future optimization
- No membrane research in this project; the best membrane available will be used in field test

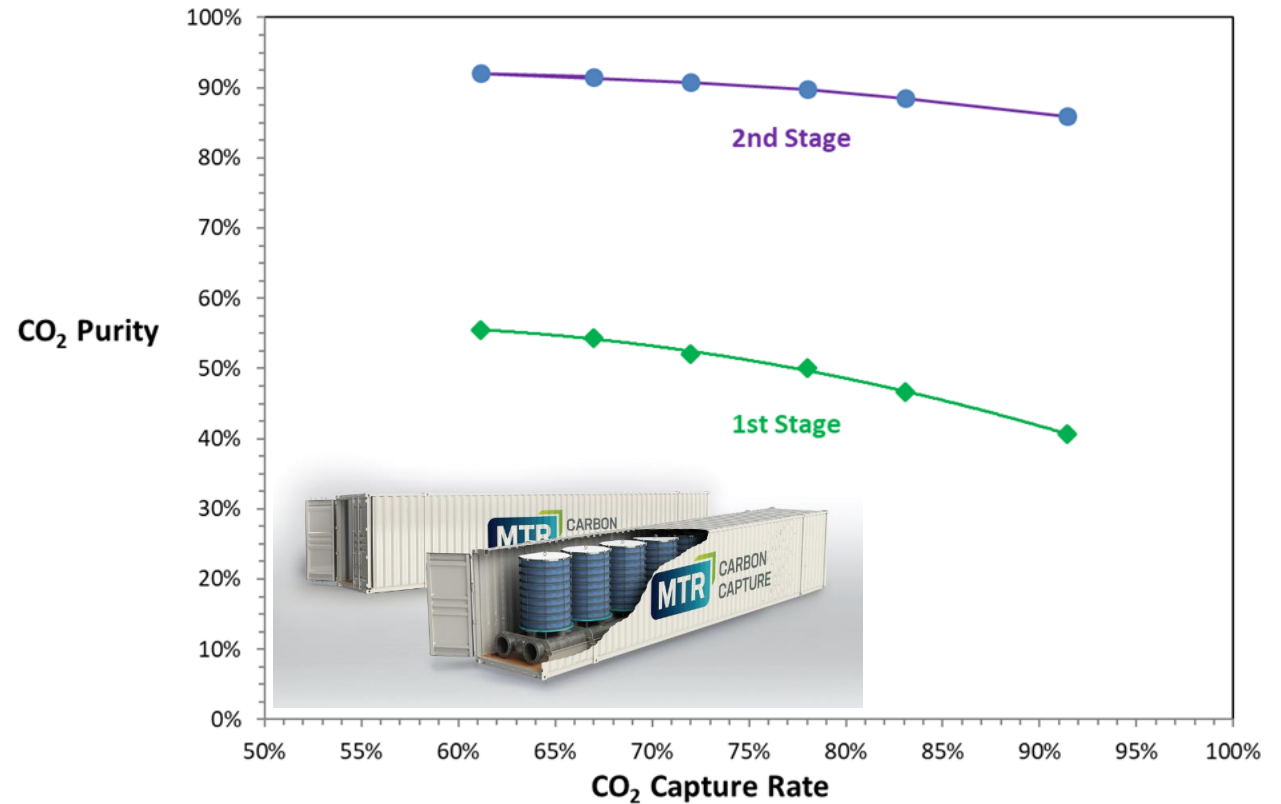
Background: Planar membrane module development

- Prototype planar module performance at NCCC validated reduced pressure-drop
 - Energy savings of $\sim 10 \text{ MW}_e$ at full-scale
- Injection molding module design has led to low-cost, high-volume production



Background: Field test results with “containerized” modules

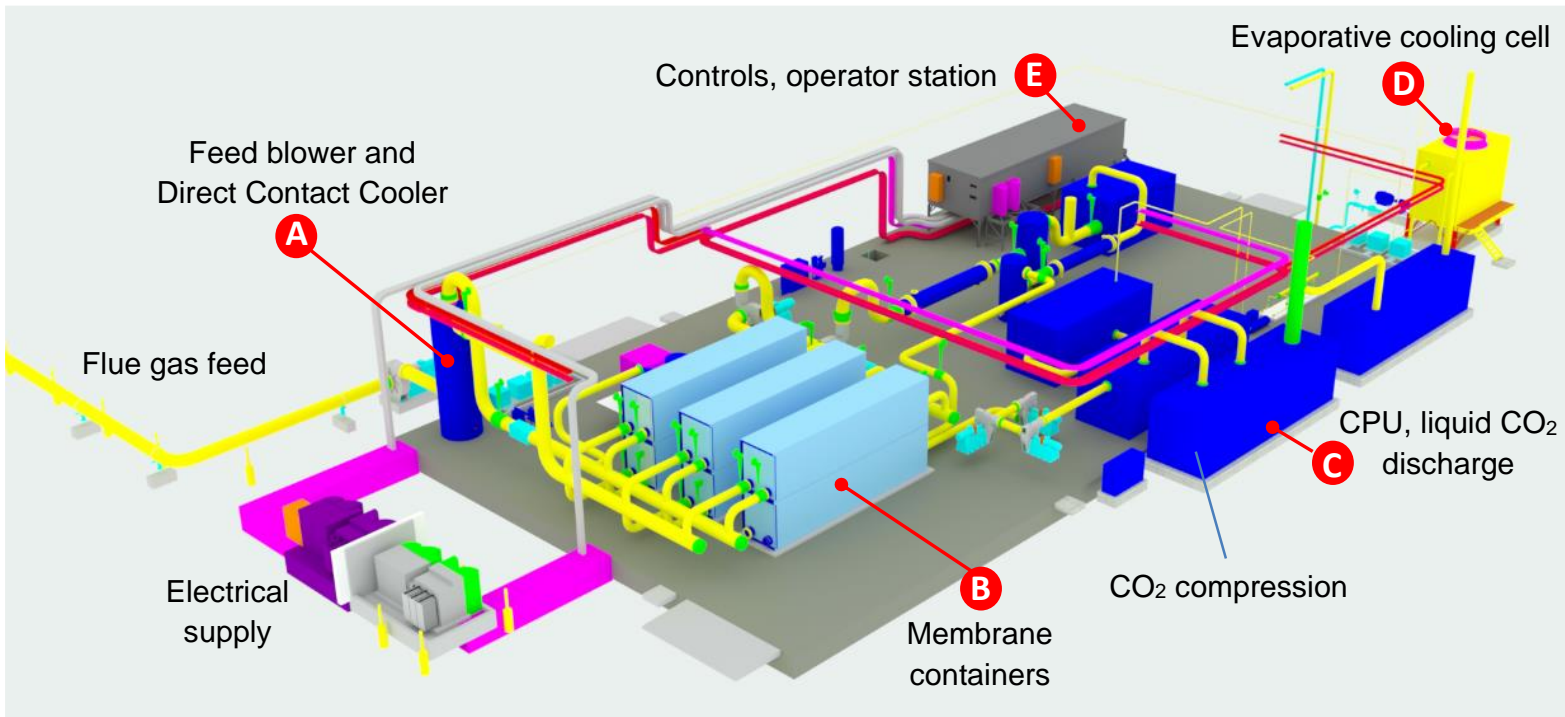
- Test system at TCM in Norway used a single container of membrane stacks
- Larger systems will use multiples of this unit building block



- 2-stage membrane system produces > 85 mol% CO₂ at 90% capture
- Observed module pressure drop (<0.15 psi) significantly lower than target (~1.5 psi)

Background: MTR Large Pilot at Wyoming Integrated Test Center

Conceptual Drawing of MTR Large Pilot at DFS

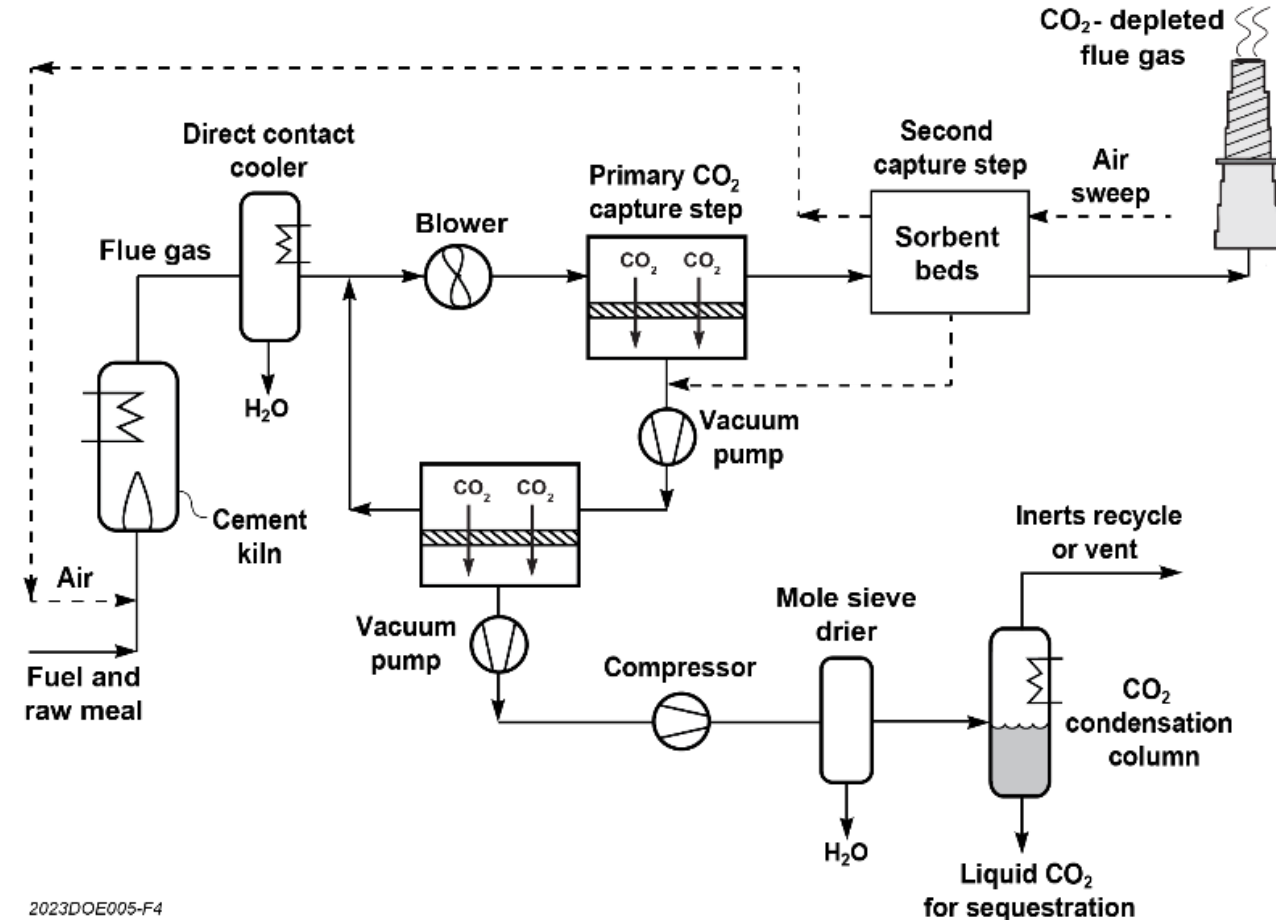


Most equipment are inside a building for weather protection

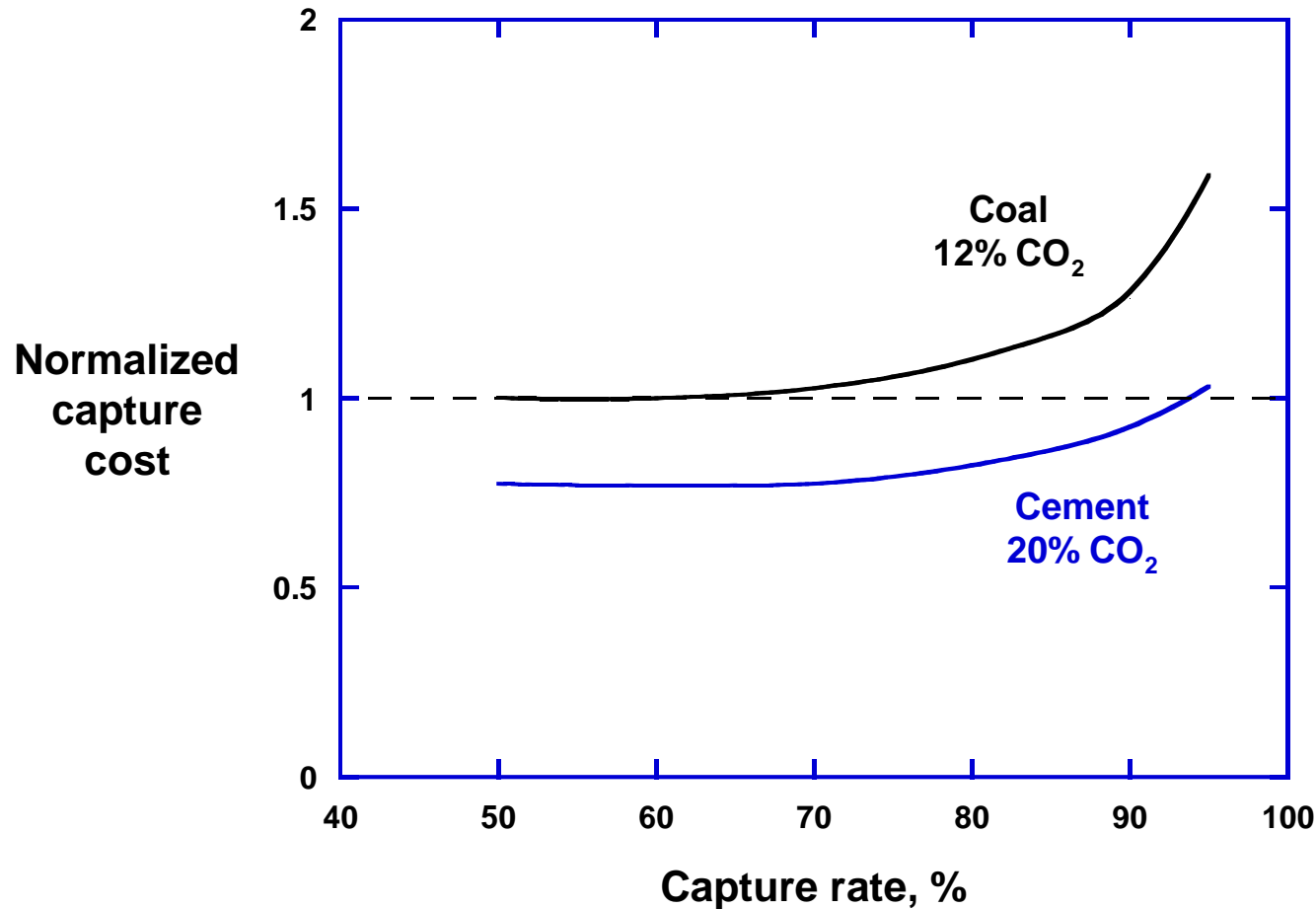
- \$85 million pilot plant
- Uses 6 membrane containers capturing 150 tonnes/day
- Will demonstrate the complete capture process including liquefaction of CO₂
- System mechanical completion was achieved in November 2024
- Currently operating at design conditions; 90% CO₂ capture case and parametric testing to follow

MTR/TDA hybrid process for CO₂ capture

- MTR two stage CO₂ capture process will be utilized along with TDA sorbent to achieve high (>95%) capture rates
- Process design relaxes removal requirement of the primary CO₂ capture step and allows the membrane to do efficient bulk removal
- Sorbent is cost-effective at removing additional CO₂ from a cleaner, CO₂-diluted membrane residue
- TDA and MTR extensively analyzed and field-tested the sorbent air-sweep recycle option in a previous small pilot project (DE-FE00031603)
- 6-month field test in Budget Period 3 will include parametric testing to identify the optimal hybrid configuration, quantify co-capture benefits, and evaluate system dynamic response
- Performance data from the hybrid field test will be used in the project final TEA report



Membranes are well-suited for industrial emitters



- As part of pre-FEED study on Cemex Balcones cement plant (DE-FE0031949), sensitivity analysis was performed to set capture rate targets
- Capture cost is ~20% lower for cement compared to coal (if factors other than CO₂ content fixed)
- Membrane cost is less sensitive to capture rate for higher feed CO₂ content; higher capture is more affordable for cement or other high CO₂ content industrial sites

Capture cost is normalized to 60% capture from coal using Polaris Gen-2 membranes

MTR process comparison with recent DOE cement study



ANALYSIS OF CARBON CAPTURE RETROFITS FOR CEMENT PLANTS

SYDNEY HUGHES, PATRICIA CVETIC

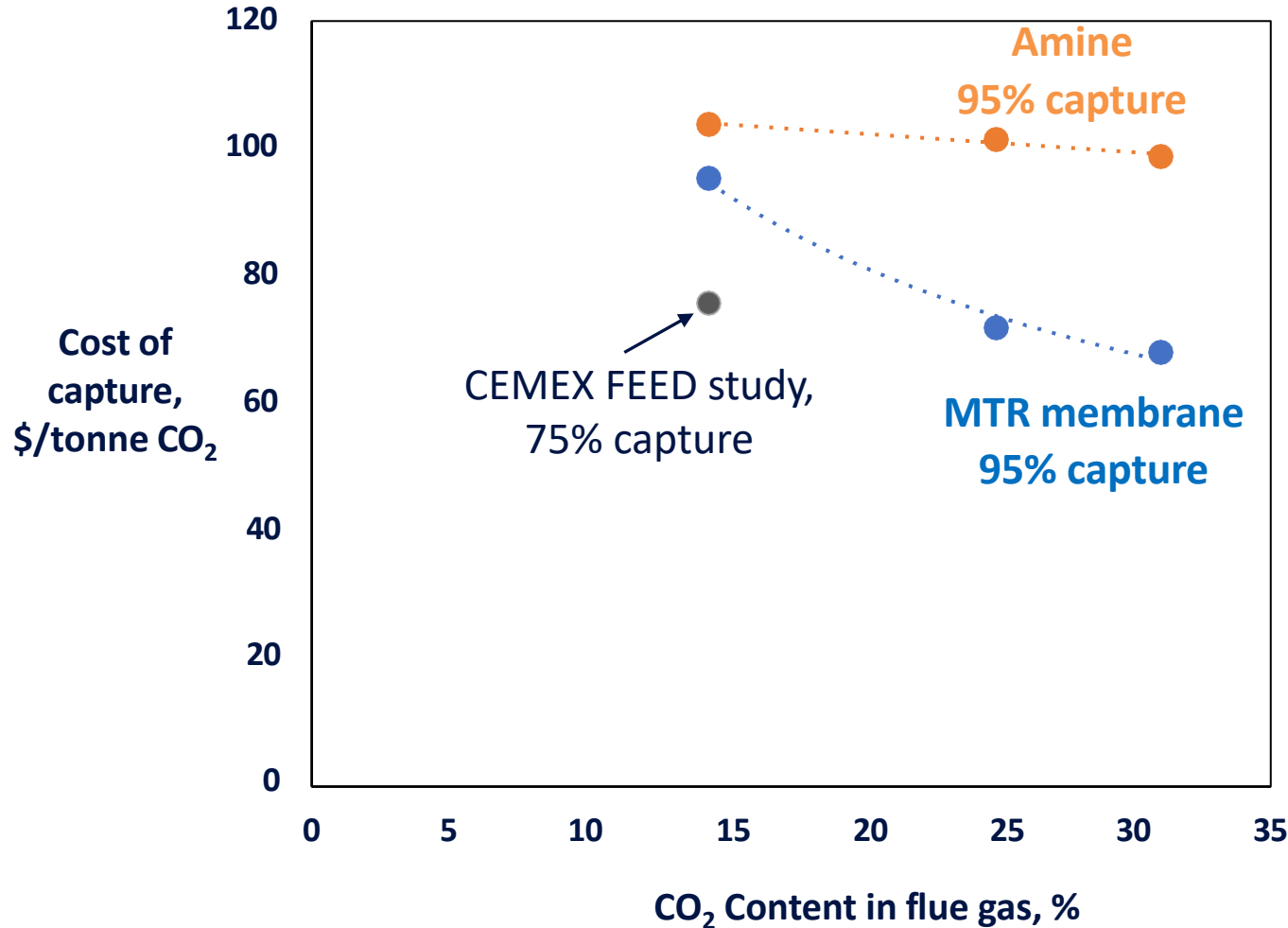


March 31, 2023

DOE/NETL-2023/3856

- Recently, DOE published study on costs of capture from cement plants using amine absorption (Cansolv)
- MTR Balcones costs were adjusted to DOE study conditions (95% capture, Nov 2022 dollars, \$67.28/MWh, etc) for better comparison
- DOE examined 3 feed CO₂ contents: 14.5%, 25%, and 31%; lowest content is close to Balcones
- Advanced Gen 3 MTR membranes used in calculations

MTR process cost comparison with DOE baseline

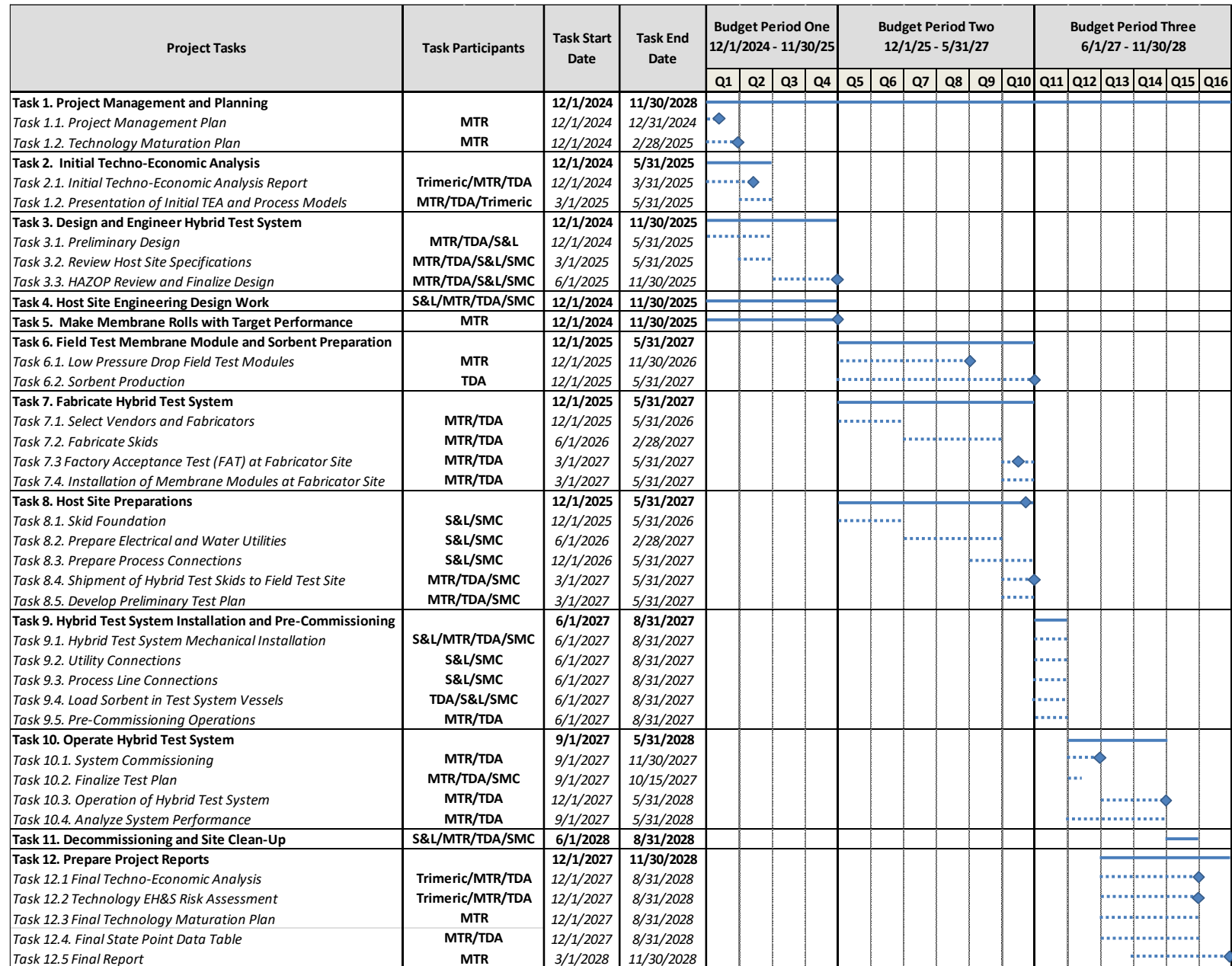


- Both technologies show a decreasing capture cost as feed CO₂ content increases
- However, membrane costs decrease faster resulting in significant savings (~30%) at CO₂ content >20%
- Membrane environmental advantages: DOE study shows amine uses ~400 gal water/tonne CO₂ captured; membrane < 50 gal/tonne

Project Objectives

- Design, fabricate, and operate membrane-sorbent hybrid small pilot system at St. Marys Cement Charlevoix, MI plant
- Complete 6-month field test showcasing hybrid process ability to efficiently capture >95% of the CO₂ emissions from a 3 TPD flue gas slipstream
- Quantify the co-capture benefits of the hybrid process operating on cement flue gas
- Update TEA incorporating field test performance data and optimized hybrid process design for post-combustion CO₂ capture from cement plants

Project Gantt Chart



Host Site: St. Marys Cement Charlevoix Plant (Charlevoix, MI)

St. Marys Cement is a part of Votorantim Cimentos' US operations

- Year of Installation: 1967/upgraded 2017
- Volume of Production
 - 2,054 kt cement/year
 - 1,911 kt clinker/year
- Products
 - Slag Cement
 - Portland Cement Type III
 - Masonry Cement Type M, N, and S
 - Blended Hydraulic Cement Type IL
- Markets Served
 - Michigan, Illinois, Wisconsin, Indiana, Ohio, Canada



Small Pilot location at SMC Charlevoix site has been determined

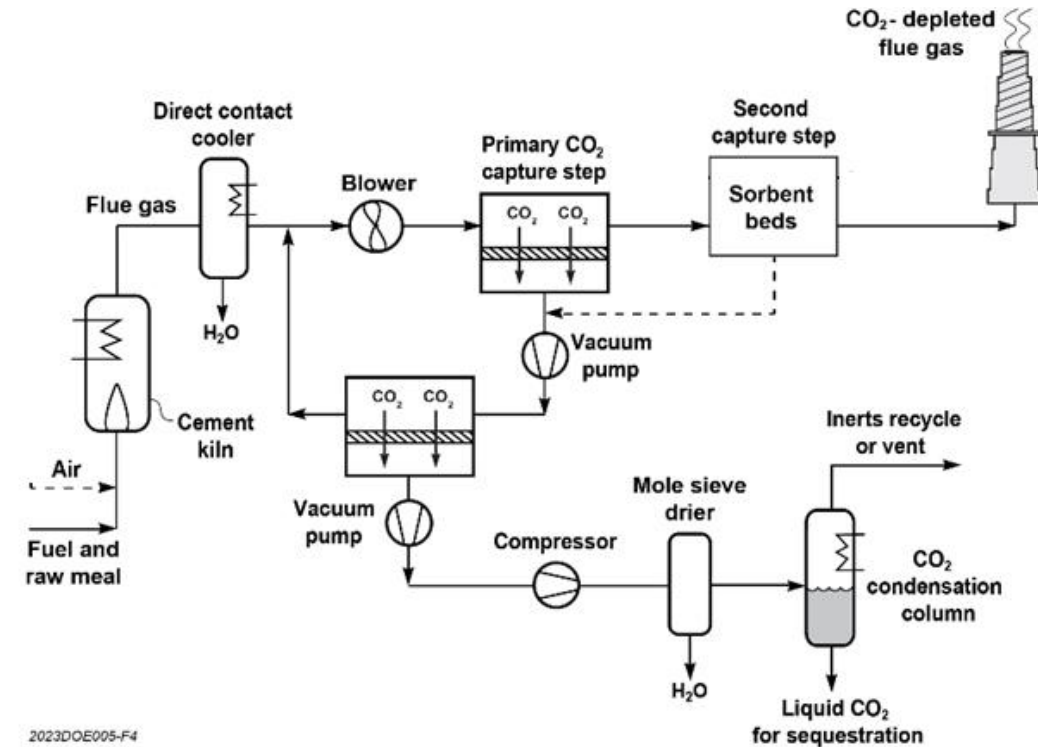
- Location will minimize distance from plant and utility connections
- All project tasks at site will not disrupt normal plant operation



Initial Hybrid Test Plan

Test plan will be further developed with input from TDA and CCSI2

- Vary capture rate of membrane and sorbent steps
- Vary overall capture rate of hybrid process
- Vary tie-in point of enriched CO₂ stream from sorbent step back to membrane process
- Run dynamic tests (startup/shutdown, load change) to document hybrid system response time
- Based on parametric test data, select optimum condition for long term steady state test
- Quantify co-capture benefits



Budget Summary

Section A - Budget Summary						
Grant Program Function or Activity	Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number	Estimated Unobligated Funds		New or Revised Budget		
		Federal	Non-Federal	Federal	Non-Federal	Total
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)
1. Fossil Energy and Carbon Management	81.089			\$845,614	\$282,689	\$1,128,303
2. Fossil Energy and Carbon Management	81.089			\$4,860,251	\$1,911,705	\$6,771,956
3. Fossil Energy and Carbon Management	81.089			\$1,294,032	\$427,758	\$1,721,790
4.						\$0
5. Totals		\$0	\$0	\$6,999,898	\$2,622,152	\$9,622,050
Section B - Budget Categories						
6. Object Class Categories	Grant Program, Function or Activity				Total (5)	
	(1) Budget Period 1	(2) Budget Period 2	(3) Budget Period 3	(4)		
a. Personnel	\$133,637	\$126,877	\$180,486			\$441,000
b. Fringe Benefits	\$0	\$0	\$0			\$0
c. Travel	\$12,776	\$23,440	\$49,716			\$85,932
d. Equipment	\$0	\$2,250,000	\$0			\$2,250,000
e. Supplies	\$35,000	\$125,000	\$0			\$160,000
f. Contractual	\$679,616	\$3,967,885	\$1,105,616			\$5,753,117
g. Construction	\$0	\$0	\$0			\$0
h. Other	\$0	\$25,000	\$25,000			\$50,000
i. Total Direct Charges (sum of 6a-6h)	\$861,029	\$6,518,202	\$1,360,818	\$0		\$8,740,049
j. Indirect Charges	\$267,274	\$253,754	\$360,972			\$882,001
k. Totals (sum of 6i-6j)	\$1,128,303	\$6,771,956	\$1,721,790	\$0		\$9,622,050
7. Program Income						\$0

Key Project Milestones

Milestone Number	Task/ Subtask No.	Milestone Description	Planned Completion Date (*)	Verification Method
Phase 1 / Budget Period 1 (12/1/2024 – 11/30/2025)				
4	3.3	Finalize Test System Design	11/30/25	Quarterly Report
Phase 2 / Budget Period 2 (12/1/2025 – 5/31/2027)				
9	7.3	Test Skids Passes Factory Acceptance Tests (FAT) at Fabricator Sites	5/15/2027	Quarterly Report
10	8	St. Marys Cement Field Test Site Preparation Work Completed	5/15/2027	Quarterly Report
11	8.4	Field Test Skids Arrive at St. Marys Cement Field Test Site	5/31/2027	Quarterly Report

Key Project Milestones

Milestone Number	Task/ Subtask No.	Milestone Description	Planned Completion Date (*)	Verification Method
Phase 3 / Budget Period 3 (6/1/2027 – 11/30/2028)				
14	10.3	Field Test Campaign Completed	5/31/2028	Quarterly Report
16	12.1	Complete Techno-Economic Analysis	8/31/2028	Topical Report

Current Project Status

- Project started December 1, 2024
- MTR finishing up activities to get subrecipient contracts in place and POs issued to vendors
- Initial technology maturation plan on track to be completed by end of February
- Trimeric, MTR, and TDA held initial TEA meeting in early January. All project partners currently working on various tasks for the report
- Test system and plant preparation design meetings with all project partners to start next week
- MTR and St. Marys Cement completed Host Site Agreement in late December (project deliverable)

Summary

- Project is just underway with initial effort focused on finalizing subcontracts, technology maturation plan, initial TEA, and completing the host site agreement with St. Marys Cement
- Test system and plant design work to ramp up in the coming weeks
- Primary project goal will field testing at SMC Charlevoix cement plant of a membrane-sorbent hybrid system at high (>95%) capture rates
- This project will determine the optimal hybrid process design, quantify co-capture benefits of the capture technology, and de-risk scale-up of this technology for CO₂ capture from cement plants

Acknowledgements

- U.S. Department of Energy, National Energy Technology Laboratory

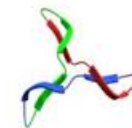
- Andy O'Palko
- Mike Fasouletos
- Ron Munson
- Dan Hancu



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
ENERGY



- Project partners



TRIMERIC CORPORATION

