PIONEERS IN CO_2 CAPTURE AND STORAGE

IBERDROLA, in line with its commitment to sustainable development, is playing a key international role in the capture and storage of CO_2 emitted by coal-fired power stations and one of the principal gases responsible for the so-called greenhouse effect which causes climate change.

Through its ScottishPower subsidiary, the company started up its first pilot plant for CO_2 capture and storage (CCS) at its Longannet coal-fired power station[1], in Scotland. This test unit, the first of its kind to be operational in the United Kingdom and a pioneering technology worldwide, is able to process up to 1,000 m^3 of gas per hour at the plant.

IBERDROLA's goal is to analyze the efficiency and behaviour of the chemical process employed by the unit to capture CO_2 under different conditions.

This project, in which Aker Clean Carbon, Shell and National Grid are participating in a ScottishPower-led consortium, is competing in a national competition convened by the British government in November 2007 to select the best technological proposal to be used in a comercial-scale CCS plant in the United Kingdom. The IBERDROLA subsidiary considers that it is capable of commercial startup of a 300 megawatt CCS plant with by the year 2014.

IBERDROLA is also the only representative of the electricity sector in a project for new sustainable industrial use of CO_2, whose aim is to seek large scale uses carbon dioxide, centred on capturing and exploiting gas for effluent treatment and use in horticulture. The project is one of the initiatives slected for the CENIT Programme, promoted by the Centre for Industrial Technology Development.