



Press Release

EMBARGOED UNTIL 7am Monday 10th April 2006

UCG PARTNERSHIP ANNOUNCES FIRST COMMITMENTS TO JOIN BY GOVERNMENT, INDUSTRY, BANKS AND LAWYERS FROM UK, INDIA, NETHERLANDS, NORWAY AND USA.

UCG Partnership announces the first group of founder and general members since the launch of the Partnership in December last year. They include:

ABN AMRO Bank, Netherlands
Bharat Heavy Electrical (BHEL), India
The Coal Authority, UK Government
The Department of Trade and Industry, UK Government
IMC Geophysics International Ltd, UK
In-Situ Energy LLC, USA
NTR plc, Republic of Ireland
Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom (UK) LLP, Attorneys and Solicitors at law, UK and USA
Statoil, Norway
Tullow Oil Plc, UK
Wardell Armstrong LLP, UK

The Membership Drive is now in full swing and new members at Founder, General or Associate level are invited from Governments, the mining and the oil and gas companies, industry and technical specialists, banks, lawyers, accountants and other interested parties.

The UCG Partnership is fast becoming the centre of excellence for Underground Coal Gasification. Interest has been generated from around the world.

Underground Coal Gasification has proven technology and is commercial. It provides security of supply and produces gas at substantially lower costs than most other processes. It is clean air technology and environmentally friendly. Given the vast coal reserves in the world it has the potential to provide a substantial part of the world's energy requirements now and long into the future.

Exciting developments are taking place in a number of countries including China, India, South Africa, the United Kingdom and the USA with significant interest received from many of the other coal-rich countries.

Mr Rohan Courtney, one of the co-founders of UCG Partnership, said:

“We are delighted to welcome such a distinguished group made up of representatives from Government, Industry, Banking and the legal world. We expect to attract more members as UCG gains recognition as a serious technology for substantial energy supply from a vast domestic source.”

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Notes To Editors.

Underground coal gasification (UCG) is the in-situ conversion of coal into a combustible gas, which can be used for heating, power generation, or the manufacture of chemicals. Coal gasification in integrated combined cycle power generation (IGCC) and carbon capture and storage is the favoured route to zero emission power generation in many countries. The UCG process is fast becoming a practical and commercial alternative to conventional coal gasification offering the same benefits of surface gasification at lower cost. UCG has been stimulated by new drilling and completion technology from the oil and gas industry, which was demonstrated first in early US trials and later in the European trial in Spain (1992-1998). This trial, which was supported by the European Commission and the Governments of the United Kingdom, Belgium and Spain, had the objective to extend the technology to deeper seams.

Since the end of the trial, the UK has led the further development of UCG in Europe, first with the DTI initiative to review the feasibility of UCG in the UK (1999-2004), the recent study of UCG in the Firth of Forth (2004-5) and the work of a small number of consultants who are responding to an increasing number of enquiries from around the world. At least one UCG trial, based on UK expertise is underway in China and negotiations over others in the USA, South Africa and India, are underway. Australia, which recently did a UCG trial (1999-2003), is a potential target for UK technology.

On 6th December 2005, participants at a conference in London on Underground Coal Gasification (“UCG”) agreed to join together in The UCG Partnership to promote UCG as a major clean coal technology with significant commercial benefits as a major power source worldwide

The meeting, hosted by ABN AMRO Bank, was attended by representatives of the coal-rich countries, international and national energy and mining companies, suppliers of UCG technology, coal license owners and specialists in energy, CO₂ abatement and financing and brought together individuals from Australia, China, India, USA, Russia, South Africa, Indonesia, Japan, Canada, Norway, Netherlands, France, Singapore, the Czech Republic and the United Kingdom.

The meeting received news on the latest developments in UCG around the world and in particular presentations on current projects in China, Wyoming and India. At the conclusion of the meeting, the UCG Partnership invited those present to join them as members of an organisation that will be dedicated to become the centre of excellence for UCG.

The aims and objectives of The UCG Partnership are:

- The focal point for public information on underground coal gasification development for Governments, press, and media generally.
- Source of information to members on all aspects of UCG including technology, research and the latest worldwide developments.
- The establishment of the benefits of UCG as a carbon abatement technology.
- The development of technology training in UCG.
- Round-table conferences on UCG for members.
- Identification of commercial opportunities for shareholder members to participate in UCG ventures around the world.
- Promoter for UCG as a clean coal technology around the world.
- The representative for the industry with Governments, the media and other bodies in areas such as economic, regulatory control, risk and security of supply issues.
- Consultancy services for individual members.
- Assistance with marketing and the promotion of UCG developments.
- Promotion of research in UCG activities and related aspects of CO₂ storage.

The meeting hosted by ABN AMRO successfully brought together many leading figures in this sector from around the world, all strongly supportive of underground coal gasification as a route to secure, low carbon energy.

Dr. Michael Green

Dr. Michael Green is Managing Director of UCG Engineering Ltd and a founder of the UCG partnership. His Company provides worldwide consultancy services in the field of underground coal gasification to energy and coal companies interested in the development of commercial UCG projects. Prior to this position he worked as an independent consultant to the Department of Trade & Industry in support of the UK initiative on underground coal gasification.

He was the Director of the European trial of underground in-seam gasification in Spain, which ended successfully in mid 1999 with the gasification of a coal seam at 550m depth. He has authored many papers on the subject of UCG and has 32 years experience in energy related engineering research.

Dr Green obtained his PhD in Chemical Engineering from Imperial College, London. He began his working career with what is now Northrop Grumman in New York and moved on to British Gas where he held senior positions in Research and Development.

Rohan Courtney

Rohan Courtney established the UCG Partnership with Dr. Michael Green one year ago, having previously been Chairman of UC Gas for two years. A banker for 27 years, including eight years as Chief Executive in London of State Bank of New South Wales, he specialised in energy transactions including oil and gas exploration and production businesses in the US and mining businesses in Australia. He has been a non-executive director of Tullow Oil plc since 1993 and was appointed Senior Independent Director in 2000. He is Chairman of the Audit Committee and member of the Remuneration and Nomination Committees. He has involved himself in other businesses and was head of an international media company for five years and a company doctor, also for five years.

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