

Leading energy companies form partnership to accelerate the development of offshore transport and storage infrastructure for carbon emissions in UK North Sea

26 October 2020

- bp, Eni, Equinor, National Grid, Shell and Total form Northern Endurance Partnership to develop offshore carbon dioxide infrastructure in the UK North Sea, with bp as operator
- Northern Endurance Partnership submits bid for funding through UK Government's Industrial Decarbonisation Challenge for project that will serve Net Zero Teesside and Zero Carbon Humber projects on the UK's East coast
- bp and Equinor join National Grid in the licence for Endurance, the UK's largest and most well-understood saline aquifer for carbon storage

26 October 2020 – bp, Eni, Equinor, National Grid, Shell and Total today confirmed they have formed a new partnership, the Northern Endurance Partnership (NEP), to develop offshore carbon dioxide (CO₂) transport and storage infrastructure in the UK North Sea, with bp as operator. This infrastructure will serve the proposed Net Zero Teesside (NZN) and Zero Carbon Humber (ZCH) projects that aim to establish decarbonized industrial clusters in Teesside and Humberside.

NZN and ZCH are at-scale decarbonization projects that will kick start decarbonization of industry and power in two of the UK's largest industrial clusters. Both projects aim to be commissioned by 2026 with realistic pathways to achieve net zero as early as 2030 through a combination of carbon capture, hydrogen and fuel-switching. If successful, NEP linked to NZN and ZCH will allow decarbonization of nearly 50% of the UK's industrial emissions.

NEP has submitted a bid for funding through Phase 2 of the UK government's Industrial Decarbonisation Challenge, aiming to accelerate the development of an offshore pipeline network to transport captured CO₂ emissions from both NZN and ZCH to offshore geological storage beneath the UK North Sea.

The £170 million Industrial Decarbonisation Challenge is part of the £4.7bn Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund set up by the UK government to address the biggest industrial and societal challenges using research and development based in the UK. NEP's application for funding is an important step towards enabling the development of integrated offshore carbon storage for NZN and ZCH in the UK Southern North Sea.

The application follows the approval by the Oil and Gas Authority (OGA) of the addition of bp and Equinor alongside National Grid to the Endurance carbon storage licence. This affirms the strategic

importance of the Endurance reservoir as the most mature large scale saline aquifer for CO₂ storage in the offshore UK Continental Shelf, that can enable industrial decarbonization from both clusters.

bp will lead the Northern Endurance Partnership as operator and the team progressing the project will draw on expertise from across all the partners.

Andy Lane, vice president of CCUS solutions at bp and managing director for Net Zero Teesside, said: “The formation of the Northern Endurance Partnership is another significant milestone towards developing the offshore infrastructure that will be needed to safely transport and store CO₂ from CCUS projects along England’s east coast. The partnership and our joint bid demonstrate industry’s willingness to come together and collaborate wherever possible to accelerate making CCUS a reality in the UK, helping to decarbonize the local economy and contributing to the UK’s climate goals.”

Grete Tveit, senior vice president for low carbon solutions at Equinor, said: “Carbon capture and storage is a crucial technology for reaching the goals of the Paris Agreement and we are committed to working with others to create real change. We believe that with our partners in the Humber, Teesside and the Northern Endurance Partnership we can deliver deep decarbonization of these major UK industrial clusters using CCUS and hydrogen, safeguarding jobs and helping develop world-leading low carbon expertise that can play a leading role in the UK’s journey to net zero by 2050.”

Martin Cook, senior vice president for business development for National Grid Ventures , said: “National Grid sits at the heart of the UK’s energy system and we want to contribute to the economic recovery through investing in solutions to support a net zero future. The Northern Endurance Partnership will channel the extensive experience of its members to develop and deliver the offshore transport and storage infrastructure we need to unlock the enormous benefits of deploying CCUS across the Humber and Teesside. We’re delighted to start working together with five really world class energy companies to deliver a solution that will play a critical role in decarbonizing the UK’s largest industrial heartland and protecting tens of thousands of jobs in the process.”

Further information

- bp press office, London: +44 (0)20 7496 4076, bppress@bp.com
- Net Zero Teesside: Jamie Gardiner , +44 (0)20 7413 3506, NEP@hkstrategies.com
- Zero Carbon Humber: Richard Royal, +44(0)7809 467883, richard@lionheartpublicaffairs.com

Notes to editors

About Net Zero Teesside

Net Zero Teesside is a Carbon Capture, Utilisation and Storage (CCUS) project, based in Teesside in the North East of England. In partnership with local industry and with committed, world class partners, it aims to fully decarbonize a cluster of carbon-intensive businesses by as early as 2030. Net Zero Teesside comprises a consortium of five OGCI members – bp, Eni, Equinor, Shell and Total, with bp

leading as operator. From the mid-2020s, the Project plans to capture up to 10 million tonnes of CO₂ emissions each year, equivalent to the emissions associated with the annual energy use of up to 3 million homes in the UK. To learn more about Net Zero Teesside, please visit netzeroteesside.co.uk.

About Zero Carbon Humber

The Zero Carbon Humber partnership comprises twelve leading companies and organisations working together to create the world's first net zero industrial cluster by 2040 in the UK's largest industrial cluster through low carbon hydrogen, carbon capture and negative emissions, known as carbon removal technology. With its first project coming online as early as 2026, ZCH expects to capture at least 17 million tonnes of CO₂ emissions per year from projects across the Humber by the mid-2030s. The ZCH Partnership includes Associated British Ports, British Steel, Centrica Storage Ltd, Drax Group, Equinor, Mitsubishi Power, National Grid Ventures, px Group, SSE Thermal, Saltend Cogeneration Company Limited, Uniper, and the University of Sheffield's Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre (AMRC). To learn more, please visit zerocarbonhumber.co.uk.