

## GRTgaz and Equinor announce cooperation on a CO<sub>2</sub> transmission and geological storage chain between France and Norway

**Equinor, the international energy company headquartered in Norway, and GRTgaz, the main French gas transmission operator committed to the energy transition, have signed a partnership agreement for the development of a CO<sub>2</sub> transport and geological storage project in the North Sea. The ambition is to build an onshore and offshore CO<sub>2</sub> transport network and an offshore pipeline linking Dunkirk to storage sites in the North Sea.**

By 2029, this project aims to decarbonise the Dunkirk industrial port area, which accounts for around 20 percent of France's industrial CO<sub>2</sub> emissions (more than 16 million tonnes). It will also help decarbonising further areas of France, which will be able to connect to this major infrastructure.

The development will consist in a 30 km onshore pipeline network developed by GRTgaz which will transport the CO<sub>2</sub> captured by industrial emitters to a compression station in Dunkirk. From here, the CO<sub>2</sub> will be transported by a large offshore CO<sub>2</sub> trunkline being developed by Equinor, which will take the CO<sub>2</sub> to safe and permanent storages under the seabed offshore Norway.

Equinor and GRTgaz, with their complementary skills, will cooperate in the development of their CO<sub>2</sub> transmission and storage infrastructures and associated services: network planning, technical design and industrial safety, interoperability, regulatory aspects and institutional relations. Feasibility studies are currently under way, with the aim of launching basic engineering studies at the end of 2024 and commissioning in 2029.

In France, this project is in line with the proposed government's strategy (France 2030) for the capture, use or permanent geological storage of carbon (CCUS) and with the desire to step up collaboration between France and Norway on green industrial transformation, in accordance with the strategic partnership signed between the two countries on 17 January 2024.

Capture and geological permanent storage of CO<sub>2</sub> is a decarbonisation solution that complements gains in energy efficiency and the development of renewable and low-carbon energies. CCUS (Carbon, Capture, Utilization, Storage) is one of the levers of the Net Zero Emission scenario of the International Energy Agency (IEA), which aims to capture 7.6 Gt of CO<sub>2</sub> every year from 2050.

**Sandrine Meunier, Chief Executive Officer of GRTgaz,** said: *«GRTgaz is developing dedicated transmission networks contributing to transport CO<sub>2</sub> from the French industrial sites where it is captured to storage and utilisation sites in France and Europe. Indeed, the capture, storage and utilisation of CO<sub>2</sub> will play a major role in decarbonising the national and European economy, and infrastructure is an essential element in this CO<sub>2</sub> value chain. We are proud to sign this partnership with Equinor and to share our respective and complementary expertise in order to provide France with an effective and competitive decarbonisation solution ».*



**Grete Tveit, Senior vice president Low Carbon Solutions of Equinor**, said: «For industries that cannot decarbonise directly through clean power, carbon capture and storage (CCS) offers a viable solution. By building CO<sub>2</sub> storage and transport solutions at an industrial scale together with GRTgaz we can help carbon-intensive industries in France to continue developing and maintaining jobs and value creation. Equinor has nearly 30 years of experience from CCS, and the geology under the seabed of the North Sea can store the CO<sub>2</sub> safely and permanently. With the expertise and capabilities of GRTgaz the value proposition that CCS offers becomes even stronger.»

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GRTgaz is France's primary gas transmission system operator and the second biggest in Europe. The Group has two subsidiaries: Elengy – the European leader in LNG terminals, and GRTgaz Deutschland, which operates the MEGAL network. In line with its mission statement – “Together, we enable an energy future that is safe, affordable and climate neutral” – GRTgaz has a public service mission, ensuring the safety of gas transmission for its 865 clients (biomethane producers, shippers, industrial companies, electricity power plants and distributors). GRTgaz is committed to achieving net zero and is adapting its network to new ecological and digital challenges; it supports the development of low-carbon hydrogen and renewable gas sectors (biomethane and gas from solid and liquid waste). It also transports waste CO<sub>2</sub> for the purposes of decarbonising the industrial sector. Key figures: 32,600 km of pipes, 625 TWh of gas transported, 3300 employees, €2.1 billion in turnover generated in 2023 (€2.6 billion at Group level).

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