

Status of Direct Air Carbon Capture and Storage (DACCS) Technologies

A presentation for CSLF Workshop on CDRs

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elementenergy

an ERM Group company

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Element Energy, a consultancy focused on the low carbon energy sector

Element Energy covers all major low carbon energy sectors:



Selected clients:

Public sector	Public-Private Partnerships	Private Sector
<p>NGOs</p>		

01

Liquid and Solid DACCS

Overview of the two prominent processes



02

DACCS Deployment

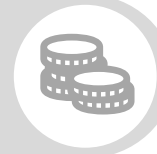
Current capacity and major DAC projects



03

DACCS Costs

Current/future costs and key sensitivities



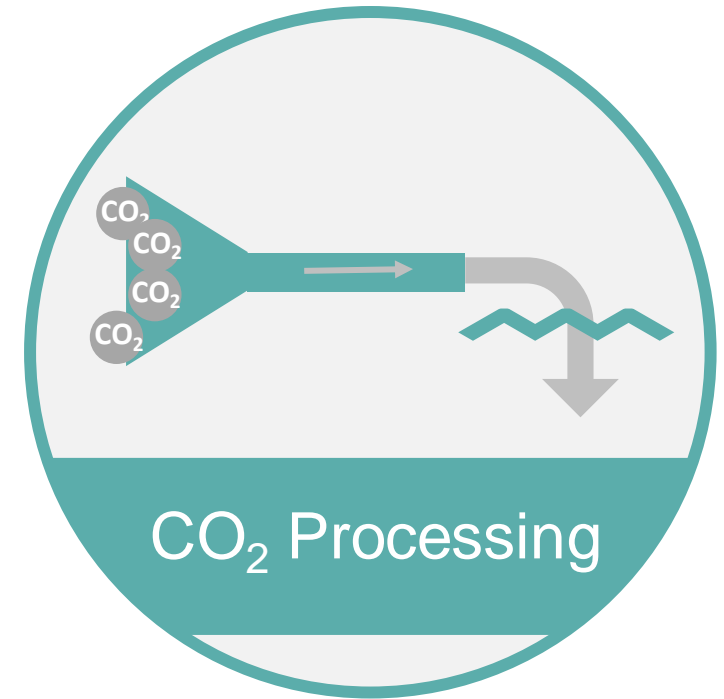
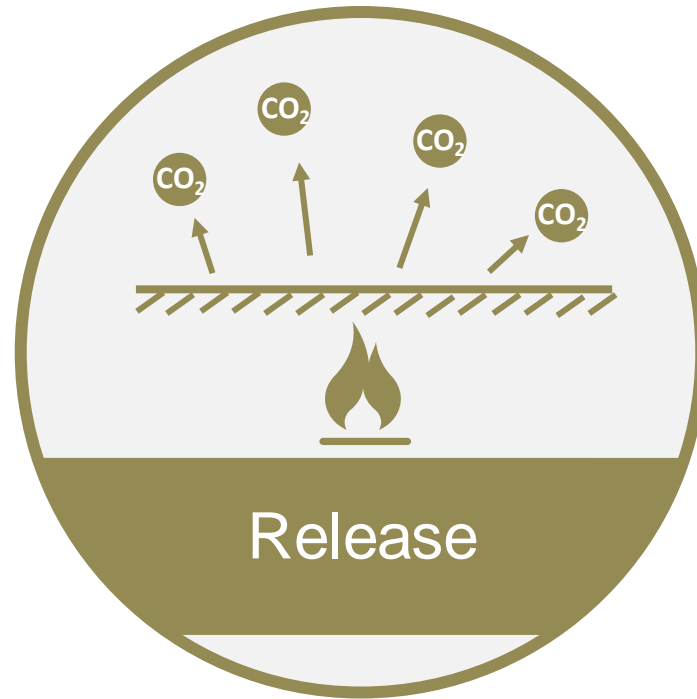
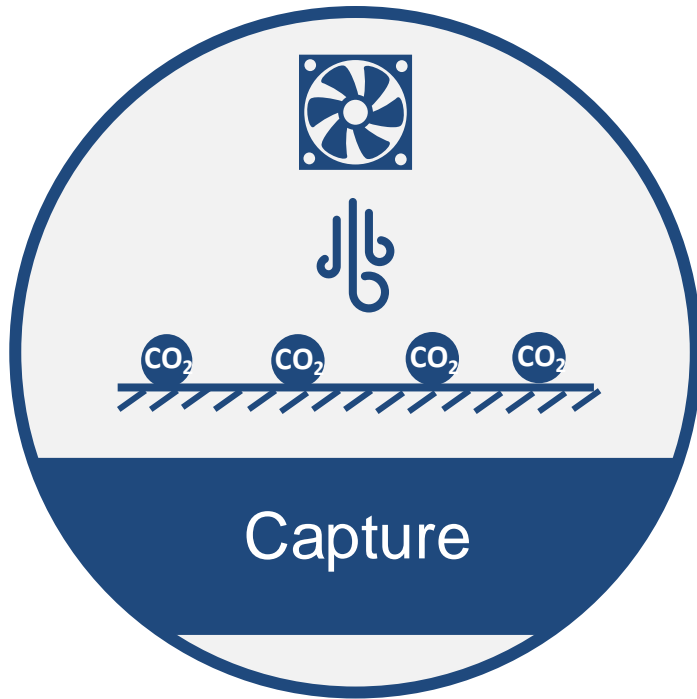
04

Innovation

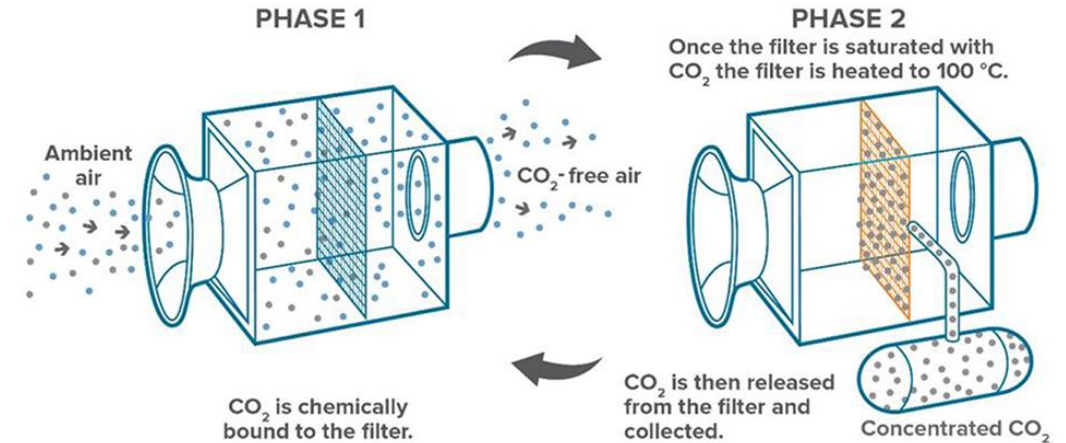
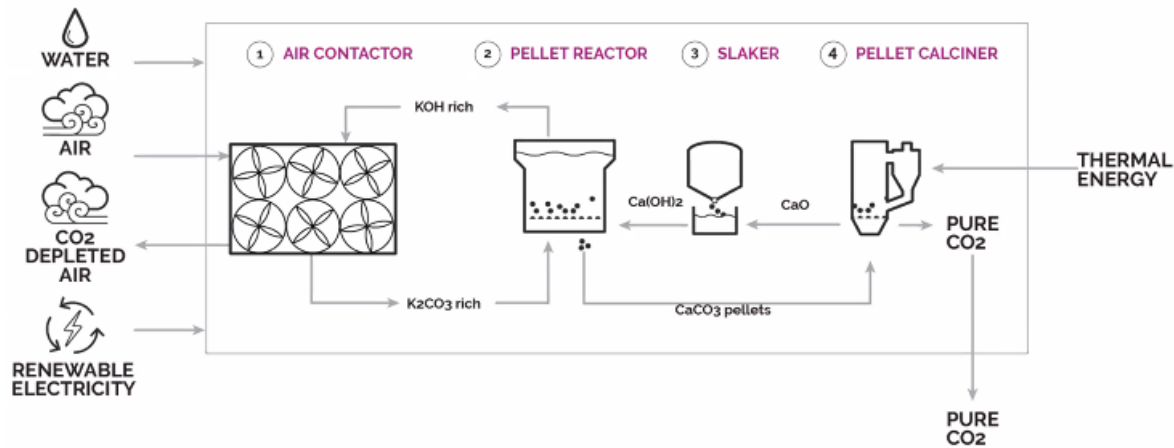
Emerging companies and new technologies



DACCS consists of 3 simple steps

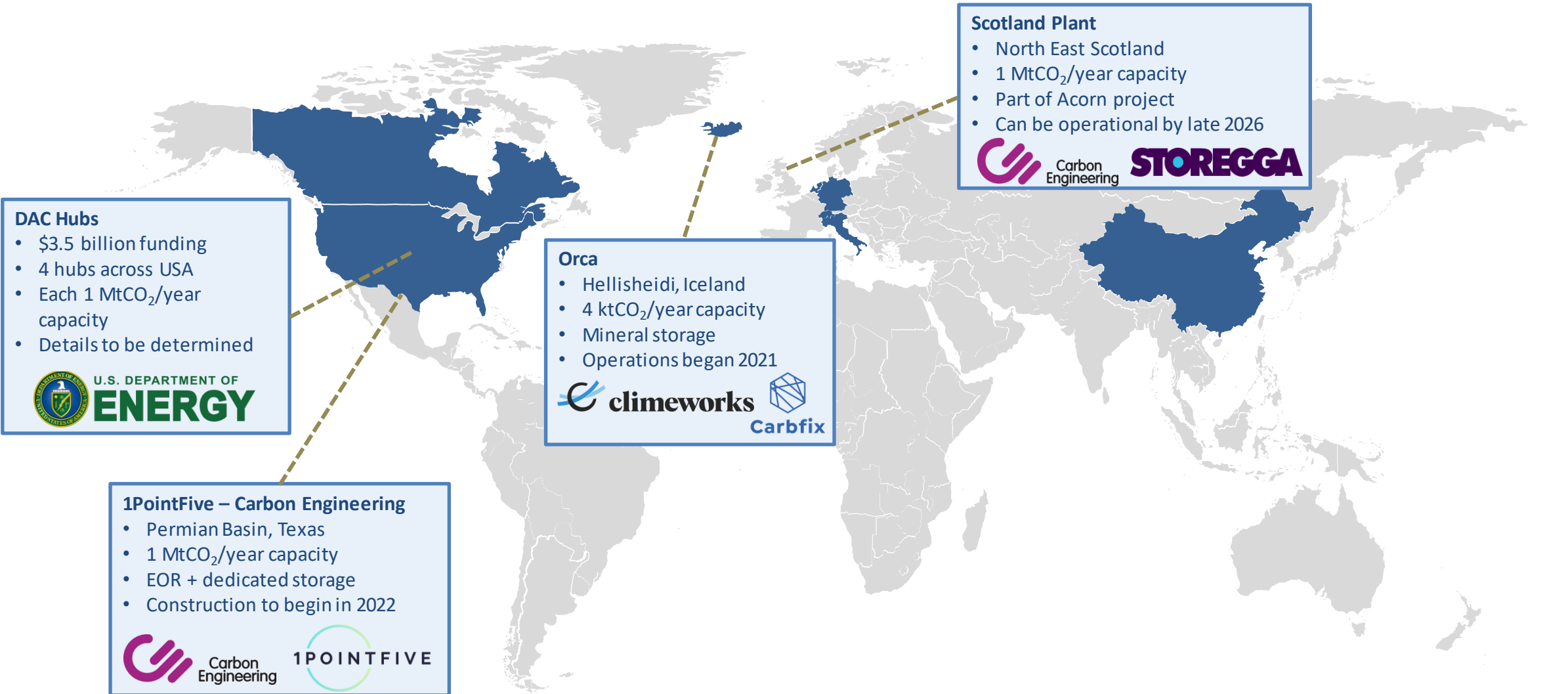


Two ways to do DACCS



Liquid Solvents	Capture Chemical	Solid Adsorbents
Carbon Engineering	Example Company	Climeworks
Very high (~900 °C)	Temperature	Low (100-120°C)
Natural Gas + Electricity	Energy Required	Electricity + (Optional Heat)
Air Contactors	Modular Component	Adsorption/desorption Unit

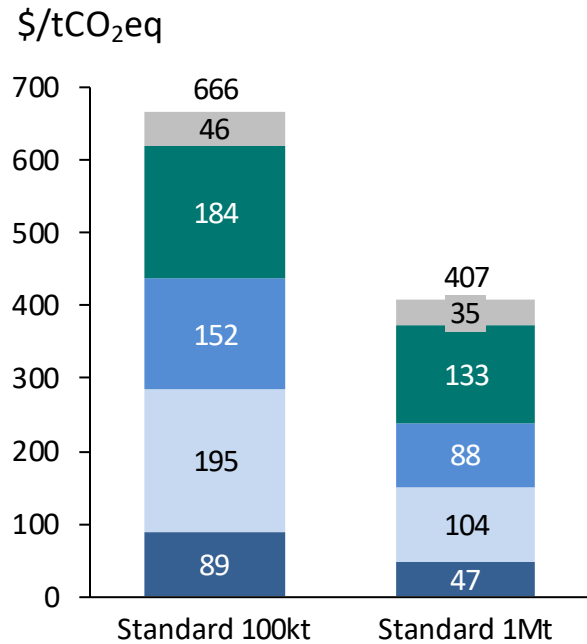
Although several large-scale DAC projects are under planning, current deployment level is only at ~11 ktCO₂/year



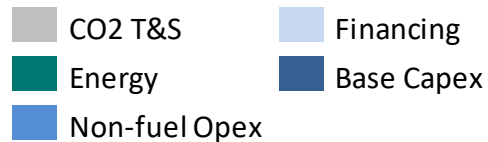
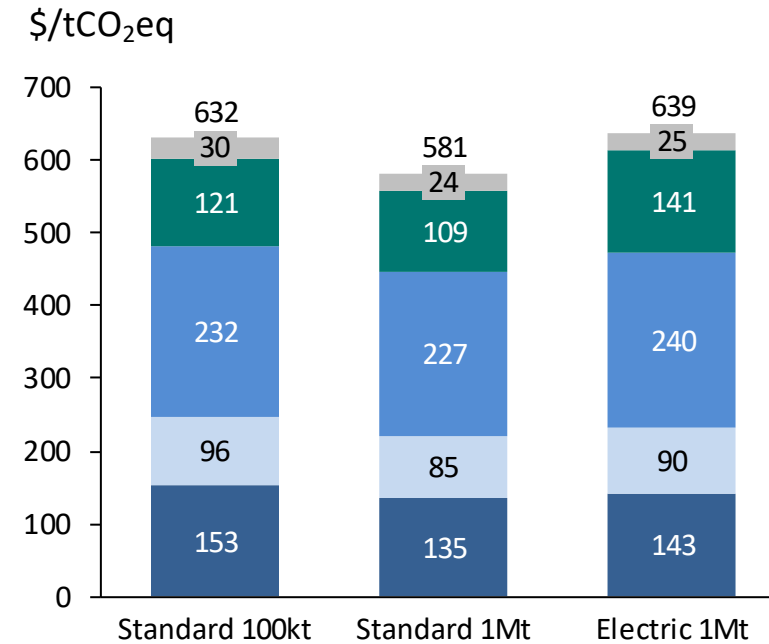
■ Countries with DAC plants, including demonstration

First-of-a-kind (FOAK) DACCS costs

Liquid DACCS FOAK Net Costs^{1,2}



Solid DACCS FOAK Net Costs^{1,2}



Key Assumptions for base case:

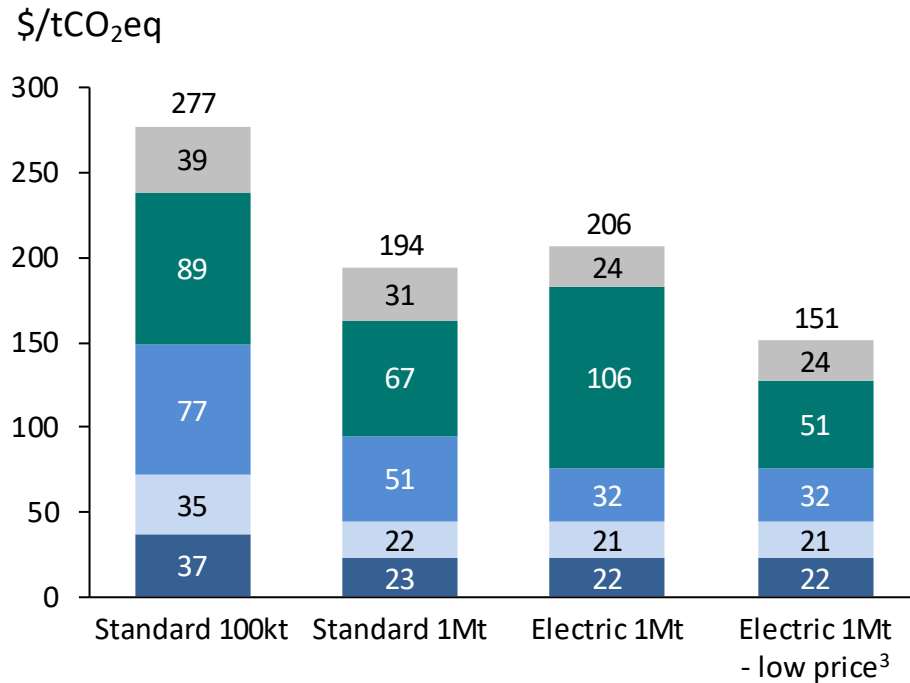
- FOAK: the first couple of sizable plants built in mid-2020s
- Discount rate: 10%
- Electricity: Global solar PV - \$68/MWh_e with 50.9 kgCO₂/MWh_e
- Heat: Natural gas for liquids (\$19/MWh gas LHV), nuclear waste heat for solids (\$19.3/MWh_{th})
- CO₂ transport: \$8.2-\$13.4/tCO₂ (large and small plant); CO₂ storage: \$14.2/tCO₂

[1] – “Standard” refers to technologies requiring both thermal and electricity input as opposed to full electric. [2] – Net LCOD is the cost of net removal of 1 tonne of CO₂ once lifecycle emissions are taken into account.

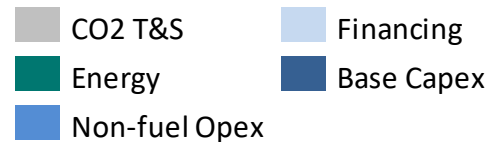
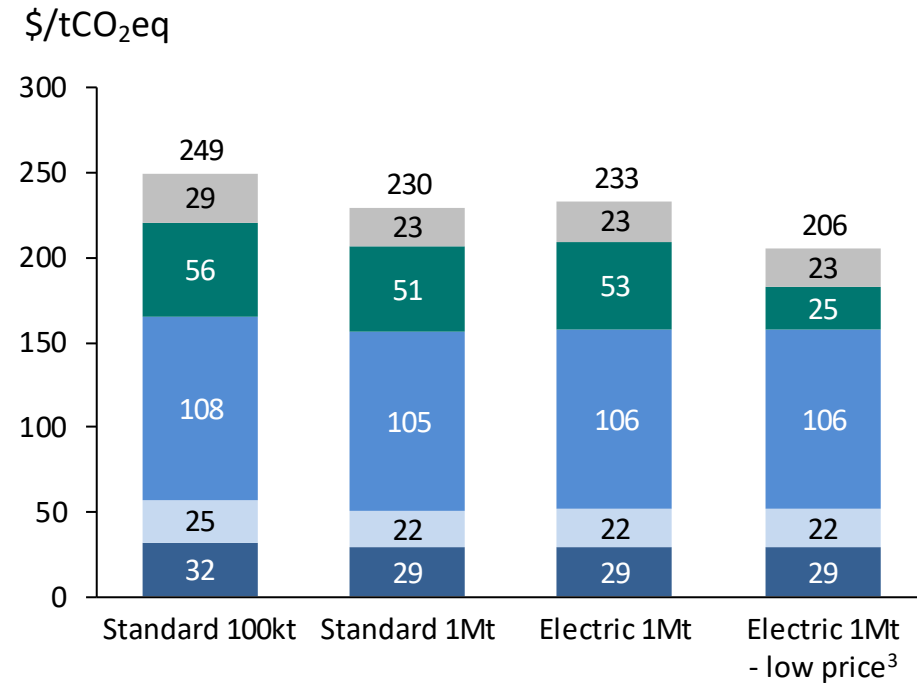


Nth-of-a-kind (NOAK) DACCS costs

Liquid DACCS NOAK Net Costs^{1,2}



Solid DACCS NOAK Net Costs^{1,2}



Key Assumptions for base case:

- NOAK: Assumed to be in 2050, representing 5-7 doublings of capacity
- Discount rate: 5%
- Electricity: Global solar PV- \$50/MWh_e with 24.8 kgCO₂/MWh_e
- Heat: Natural gas for liquids (\$8.5/MWh gas LHV), nuclear waste heat for solids (\$19.3/MWh_{th})
- CO₂ transport: \$8.2-\$13.4/tCO₂ (large and small plant); CO₂ storage: \$14.2/tCO₂

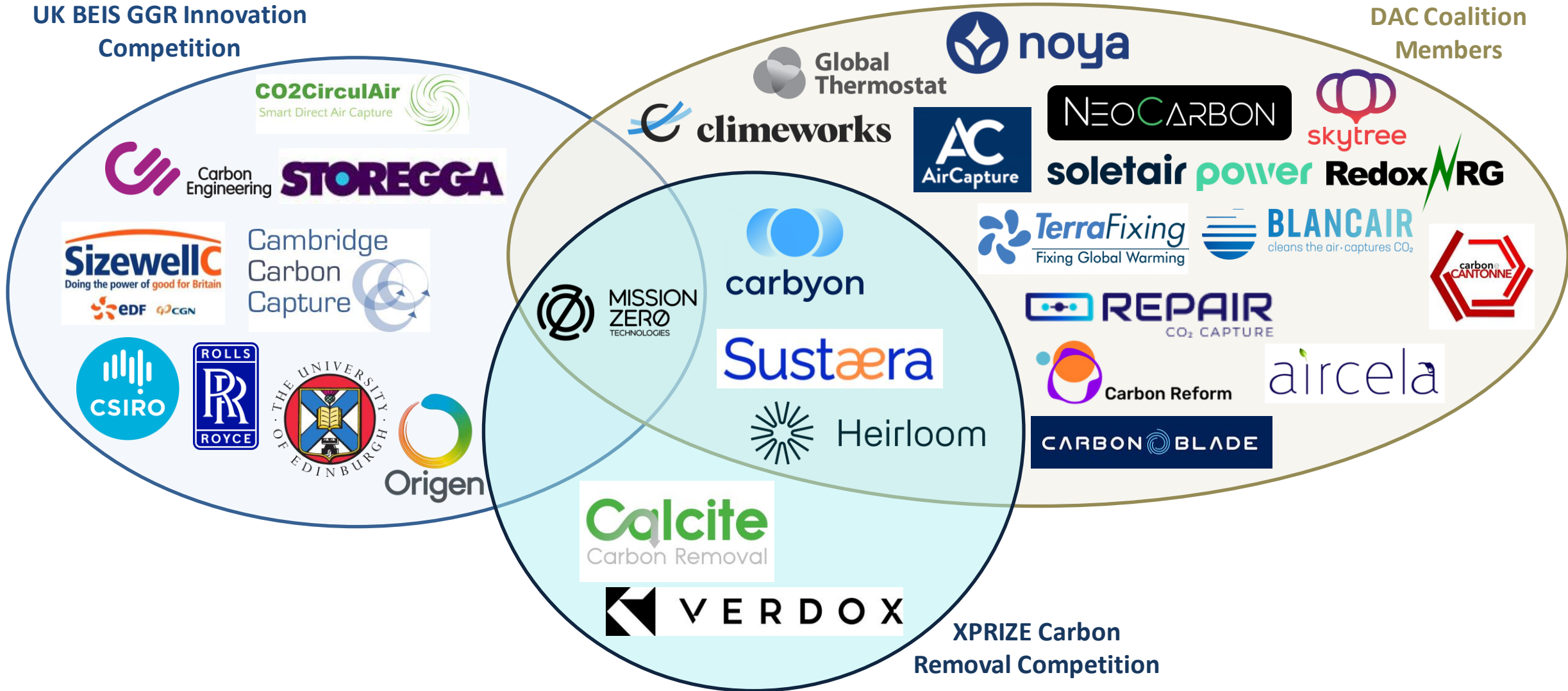
[1] – “Standard” refers to technologies requiring both thermal and electricity input as opposed to full electric. [2] – Net LCOD is the cost of net removal of 1 tonne of CO₂ once lifecycle emissions are taken into account. [3] – Hypothetical case with low-cost solar at \$24/MWh based on average USA power purchase agreements.



Recently a myriad of DAC companies have emerged, fuelled by early public and corporate funding

UK BEIS GGR Innovation Competition

DAC Coalition Members



There are many areas for further innovation

Innovative air contacting

- Designs with lower energy demand
- Leveraging natural airflow – passive DACCS



Improved liquids & solids

- Better capture chemicals
- Processes with alternative energy sources
- Efficiency through process design



Novel processes

- Electro swing adsorption
- Moisture swing adsorption
- Cryogenic DAC
- CO₂ crystallisation
- Membrane separation



New business models

- Cooling tower retrofits
- Vehicle air conditioning retrofits
- Indoors air purification



Key takeaways



DACCS is an essential technology to reach climate targets



DACCS may not reach its \$100/tonne target as quickly as the industry expects



Many exciting projects are in the pipeline, but need urgent government support to be realised



The rhetoric on DACCS is moving away from the liquids/solids divide as newer technologies are developed

Remaining questions



What is the role of DACCS in decarbonisation of industrial clusters?



What are the best regions for DACCS deployment?



What are the best policies to enable DACCS deployment in different contexts?



What are opportunities for further innovation and how they may be funded?

Thank you

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