Low-Carbon After-Life: sustainable use of flooded coal mine voids as a thermal energy source - a baseline activity for minimising post-closure environmental risks

PROJECT DETAILS

Funding Programme:
Research Fund for Coal & Steel
Sub-Programme:
Coal Research
Funding Scheme:
Research Project
Project Reference:
00001;
UE-14-RFCR-CT-2014-00001
Project Duration:
36 Months (from 2014-07-01 to 2017-06-30)
Total Project Value:
€ 1.621.998
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€ 973.195
Funding to UniOvi:
€ 363.286

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

In the LoCAL project we aim to bring together the state-of-the-art in modelling and management of abandoned coal mine workings to use the mine water as a heat source. Our approach provides an active, low-carbon after-life for old mine voids after closure, and also delivers ongoing monitoring of water levels and quality, which in turn will increase the understanding of the systems, thus making it easier to manage all other environmental issues that might arise (e.g. outflow of polluted water, gas emissions, subsidence etc). Use of mine water as an energy source can also help subsidise the cost of other environmental monitoring. Planned active pilot projects on mine water as a heat source are themselves aimed at obtaining a low-carbon energy source from the remains of the high-carbon past, but also in terms of the CO2 capture agenda they will also yield information on hydraulic behavior of very deep mine voids which in places are deep enough (> 750m) to be considered potential CO2 storage zones in their own right.

The overall aim is to increase the yield of the production and the quality of the products taking it to account the environment impact.

PROJECT PARTNERS

Project Coordinator
Główny Instytut Gornictwa (Central Mining Institute) – CMIPL, Poland

Poland
Armada Development Spolka Akcyjna –Armada
United Kingdom
The University of Glasgow – UGLW
Alkane Energy Uk Limited – Alkane Energy UK
Spain
Universidad de Oviedo
Hulleras del Norte, S.A. (HUNOSA)

UNIOVI TEAM

Jorge Luís Loredo Pérez 1
jloredo@uniovi.es
Mª Nieves Roqueñí Gutiérrez 1
nievesr@uniovi.es
Mª Almudena Ordoñez Alonso 1
aoalonso@uniovi.es
Rodrigo Álvarez García 1
alvarezrodrigo@uniovi.es
Pablo Cienfuegos Suárez 1
cienfuegospablo@uniovi.es

1 Department of Mining Exploitation and Prospecting