

MEDIA RELEASE

American-Australian partnership signals strong international investment in low-emissions lignite

Brown Coal Innovation Australia (BCIA) today announced it is partnering with the renowned North American Lignite Energy Council to foster and exchange research and development focused on reducing carbon emissions and increasing the efficiency of lignite coal conversion industries in both countries.

The reciprocal membership arrangement between BCIA and the Lignite Energy Council, based in Bismarck, North Dakota, will enable the two organisations to “harness their complementary resources and expertise” to further develop and support opportunities for collaboration in low-emissions brown coal utilisation.

Lignite Energy Council President and Chief Executive Officer, Jason Bohrer, announced the membership agreement with BCIA following a rigorous review of international R&D organisations. “We were studying international R&D groups that we could partner with in order to leverage the benefits of our R&D program,” said Mr Bohrer

The Lignite Energy Council has an R&D program dating back to the 1980s and is a trade association representing North Dakota’s lignite mines, lignite-based power plants, the Dakota Gasification Company and more than 375 companies that supply goods and services to the lignite industry.

Australia and the state of North Dakota rank as the top two known reserves of brown coal in the world. BCIA Chief Executive, Dr Phil Gurney, said: “The Lignite Energy Council is the second international member of BCIA and this new partnership is further evidence of the strong international commitment to a low-emissions future for brown coal.”

A delegation of United States engineers and researchers will travel to Australia in the near future to share information on brown coal R&D projects and to participate in BCIA’s upcoming *Coal-to-Products* seminar. BCIA and the Lignite Energy Council have also agreed to establish a travel scholarship which will contribute toward the cost of travel between the United States and Australia for scientists working on collaborative research.

More information:

Mandy Frostick, BCIA Communications, Tel: + 61 419 546 245 Email: mandy.frostick@messageworks.com.au

ABOUT BROWN COAL INNOVATION AUSTRALIA

Brown Coal Innovation Australia (BCIA) is a not-for-profit, member-based company with a mandate to co-invest with stakeholders in brown coal innovation and emissions reduction technologies. The company has 13 members including two international members; the Japan Coal Energy Centre (JCOAL) and the Lignite Energy Council.

BCIA funds and facilitates multi-million dollar research and skills development investments to drive innovation in the brown coal value-chain, from mine-mouth to the capture of CO₂. The company's mission is to invest proactively in the development of technologies and people that broadens the use of Australia's world-class brown coal resource for a sustainable future.

Strategic management of its R&D investment portfolio underpins BCIA's innovation support and operational activities. The company is addressing the challenges and opportunities of fostering low-emissions brown coal development by:

- providing a key entry point to progress shared research and development activity between industry, research and government stakeholders
- focusing strongly on skills-development and the expansion of training opportunities to secure the scientific, engineering and trades expertise needed for development of new low-emissions brown coal technologies.

BCIA innovation funding supports research and development initiatives that are technically excellent and that will lead to increased commercial deployment of low-emissions brown coal technologies in the short, medium and long term.

Australia has vast brown coal reserves; encompassing about a quarter of the world's known reserves. Innovation of improved technology for brown coal usage involves substantial costs and time and under-investment in R&D has significant implications for industry competitiveness and Australia's future economic prosperity.

To date, the vast majority of R&D activity in brown coal technologies has focused on power generation and, more recently, efficient water removal technologies. Beyond emissions reduction, current and future international price indications for oil, gas and metallurgical coal provide new exploitation opportunities for the conversion of brown coal to liquids and other high-value commodities.

BCIA's innovation support spans three key spectrums:

- R&D in low-emissions, low-cost, coal technologies and novel, high-value products derived from brown coal
- Skills development and new training opportunities to secure scientific, engineering and trades expertise
- Linkages and networks to foster international collaboration in innovation and low-emissions technologies.