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Drax, MHI partner on 'world's largest negative emissions project'

Drax Group will use Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Engineering's (MHI) carbon capture technology under a long-term contract.

The agreement for Drax to use Mitsubishi's Advanced KM DCR process™ would be the largest deployment of negative emissions in power generation anywhere in the world.

The contract, which combines UK innovation and world-leading Japanese technology, will see Drax license MHI's unique carbon capture solvent, KS-21™ to capture CO_2 at its power station near Selby, North Yorkshire.

By deploying bioenergy with carbon capture and storage (BECCS) technology, Drax aims to become carbon negative by 2030. The first BECCS unit at Drax could be operational as soon as 2027, supporting thousands of jobs across the North of England as soon as 2024, and capturing and storing at least 8 million tonnes of CO_2 a year by 2030.

Drax is the first company to sign a contract to deploy carbon capture technology at scale in the UK. The project combines MHI's proven technology with offshore geological storage under the North Sea, helping the UK achieve its target to cut carbon emissions by 78% by 2035.

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As part of the agreement, MHI plans to locate its core carbon capture and storage (CCS) team at the company's European headquarters in London and explore additional employment opportunities in the UK in future. MHI is also seeking ways to strengthen its supply chain, including the potential production of its proprietary solvent in the UK.

Drax has already trialled MHI's carbon capture technology in a pilot that started in 2020 to test two of its proprietary solvents (KS-1 and KS-21).

"The world urgently needs to move from making climate pledges to taking climate action," said Will Gardiner, Drax's CEO.

"This game-changing contract between Drax and MHI could contribute to a decade of global environmental leadership in the UK and provide further stimulus to a post-COVID economic recovery.

"Carbon capture technologies like BECCS are going to be absolutely vital in the fight against the climate crisis. Subject to the right regulatory framework being in place, Drax stands ready to invest further in this essential negative emissions technology, which not only permanently removes CO_2 from the atmosphere but also delivers the reliable, renewable electricity needed for clean, green economic growth."

Kenji Terasawa, president and CEO of MHI, said: "We are very proud to have been selected as Drax's technology partner and we firmly believe that our carbon capture technology will make a significant contribution to the UK and wider global community achieving their net-zero targets.

"We look forward to expanding our presence in the UK and developing a centre of excellence for the deployment of carbon capture technology across Europe, the Middle East, and Africa region.

"MHI aims to continue reducing greenhouse gases globally by providing reliable and economically feasible carbon capture technology, supported by research and development activity over 30 years and commercial records around the world."

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