



**MEMBRANE**  
TECHNOLOGY & RESEARCH

# **Scale-Up and Testing of Advanced Polaris Membranes at TCM (DE-FE0031591)**

**Carlos Casillas, David Hicks, Ivy Huang, Thomas Hofmann, Jay Kniep,  
Tim Merkel (PI), Craig Paulaha, Witopo Salim, Erik Westling**

Carbon Management and Oil & Gas Research Project Review Meeting  
Point Source Capture – Lab, Bench, and Pilot-Scale Research  
August 12, 2021

# Project Overview

**Award name:** Scale-Up and Testing of Advanced Polaris Membrane CO<sub>2</sub> Capture Technology (DE-FE0031591)

**Project period:** 8/1/18 to 12/31/21

**Funding:** \$8.2 million DOE; \$2.6 million cost share (\$10.8 million total)

**DOE program manager:** Isaac “Andy” Aurelio (BP1 & 2), Andy O’Palko (BP3)

**Participants:** MTR, TCM, Trimeric, WorleyParsons

**Project scope:** Design, build, and operate a system at TCM with Gen 2 Polaris modules

**Project plan:** The project is organized in three phases:

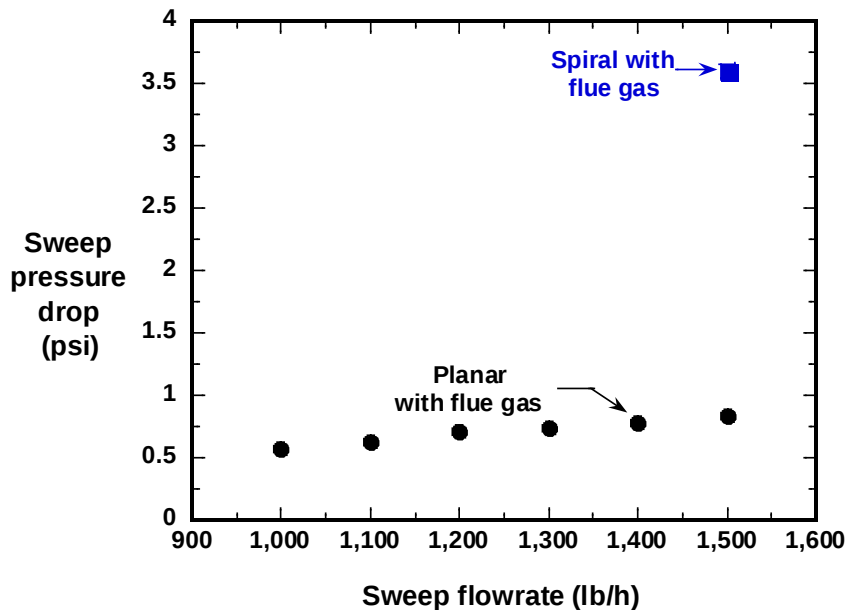
- **Phase 1** – Design system, fabricate membrane modules
- **Phase 2** – Build and install system at TCM
- **Phase 3** – Operate system, analyze results, decommissioning

# Role of Participants

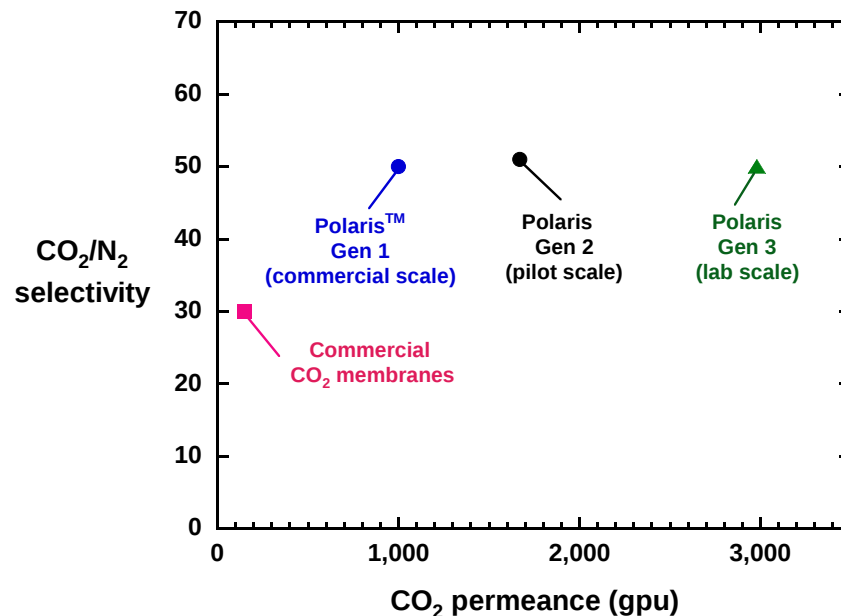
- MTR (Tim Merkel, Jay Kniep, Thomas Hofmann) – project lead and liaison with DOE; responsible for membrane system design, construction, installation and operation; will lead data analysis and all reporting to DOE
- TCM (Kjetil Hantveit, Sundus Akhter) – host site for the field test; with MTR, will coordinate system installation, operation, and data analysis
- Trimeric (Ray McKaskle) – Responsible for membrane capture process techno-economic analysis (TEA)
- WorleyParsons (Vlad Vaysman) – responsible for process environmental impact study

# Background: Membrane and Module Improvements

## Planar Modules



## Polaris™ Membranes



- Moving from Gen 1 to Gen 2 Polaris cuts membrane area by >50% (~\$10/tonne CO<sub>2</sub>)
- Lower pressure drop of new modules saves 15 MW<sub>e</sub> fan power on 500 MW<sub>e</sub> system

# Project Objectives

- Scale-up Gen 2 Polaris membrane packaged in low-pressure-drop, low-cost module stacks and test at TCM
- Demonstrate “containerized” skid as final form factor for future large-scale systems
- Test pilot system ( $\sim 1 \text{ MW}_e$ ) over range of  $\text{CO}_2$  capture rates and feed  $\text{CO}_2$  content for TEA input
- Update overall process TEA

# Primary Objective: Module-Scale Up

Plate-and-Frame Prototype with Gen-1 Polaris  
(Tested at NCCC/B&W/UT-Austin 2015-18)



Verified low-pressure drop in field testing

Containerized Module Stacks with Gen-2 Polaris  
(2021 TCM Field Test)

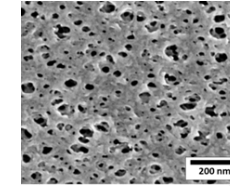


Low pressure drop, plus optimized flow distribution and reduced cost (valves, etc)

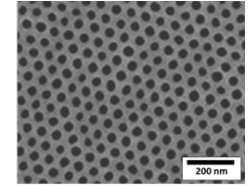
# This Project in Context

## Self-Assembly Isoporous Supports, CA (DE-FE31596)

- Transformational new membrane (TRL 3 – 4)
- Reduces membrane area and energy use



Surface of Conventional Support



Surface of Isoporous Support

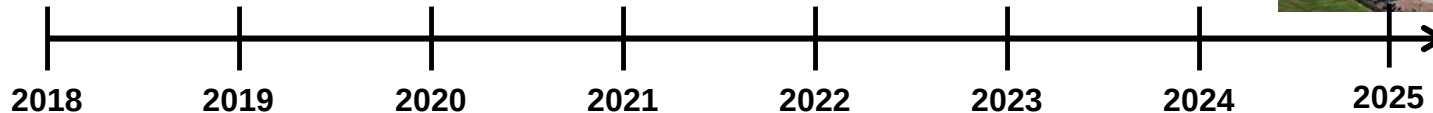
## Pilot Testing at TCM, Norway (DE-FE0031591)

- Gen 2 Polaris™ membrane
- Low pressure-drop modules
- Containerized skid, 1 MW pilot scale



## Large-Pilot Testing at WY ITC, WY (DE-FE31587)

- Phase I – Design 200 TPD pilot; secure host site
- Phase II – FEED and permitting
- Phase III – Fabricate, install and operate (TRL 7 – 8)



# Project Progress: Modules

Membrane module stack trimming system



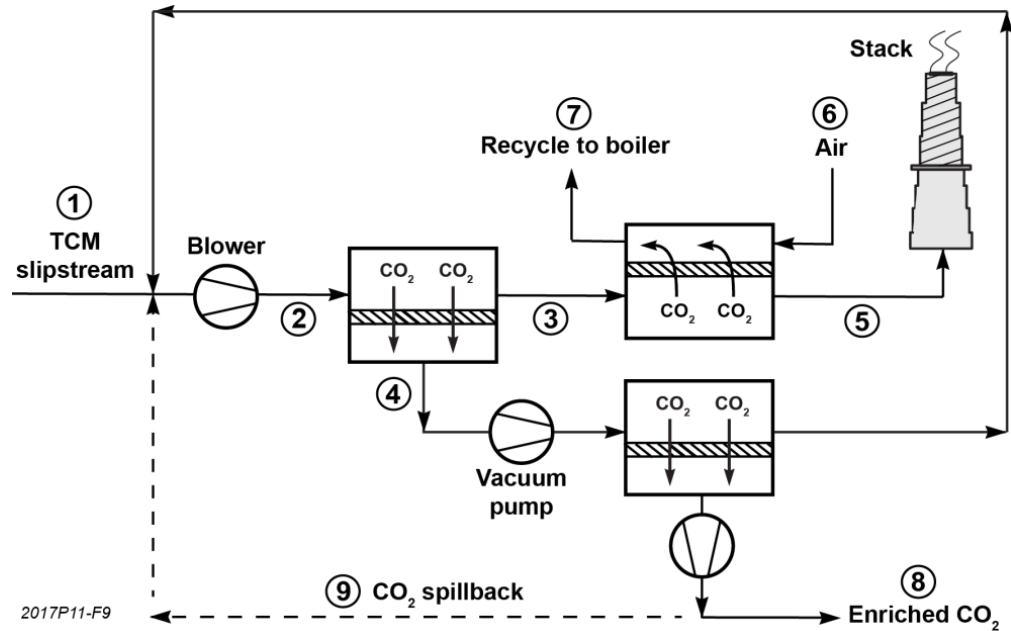
Module stack prepared for shipping



- Gen 2 Polaris produced on commercial roll-to-roll equipment
- Membrane stacks were assembled and passed QC testing at MTR, prior to installation on the test system

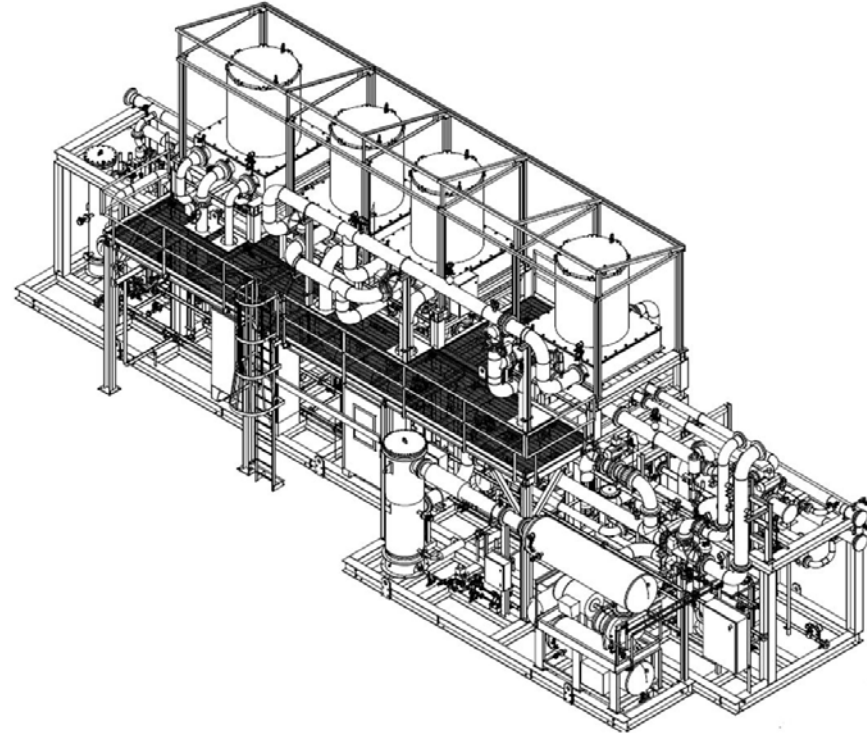
# Test System Design

- 2 stage system with air sweep step (stream 6) and varying feed CO<sub>2</sub> content using recycle (stream 9)
- TCM slipstream flow rate of 2,000 Nm<sup>3</sup>/h
- 50% to 95% CO<sub>2</sub> capture rates possible
- Progressive Recovery Inc. (PRI) of Dupou, Ill chosen as test system fabricator



# System General Arrangement

- General arrangement drawings finalized in Summer 2020
- System splits into four skids for shipping
- Membrane “container” with 4 stacks on top floor (full container would be 6 stacks); blower/pumps on bottom floor
- Factory Acceptance Test (FAT) of system completed in March 2021
- Skids shipped to Norway in spring 2021, and currently installed at TCM



# Construction Progress

**Main Test System during Fabrication**



**Main Test System Prepared for Shipping**



- System construction started Fall 2020, completed in March 2021; shipped to TCM in April/May

# Site Preparations

3<sup>rd</sup> site with MTR and TDA skids



Close up view of 3<sup>rd</sup> site foundation



- TCM approved development of the “3<sup>rd</sup>” site for testing of new technologies in 2019
- The site was ready for system installation by Fall 2020

# System Installation at TCM



- System installation completed with TCM assistance in June 2021

# MTR System at TCM

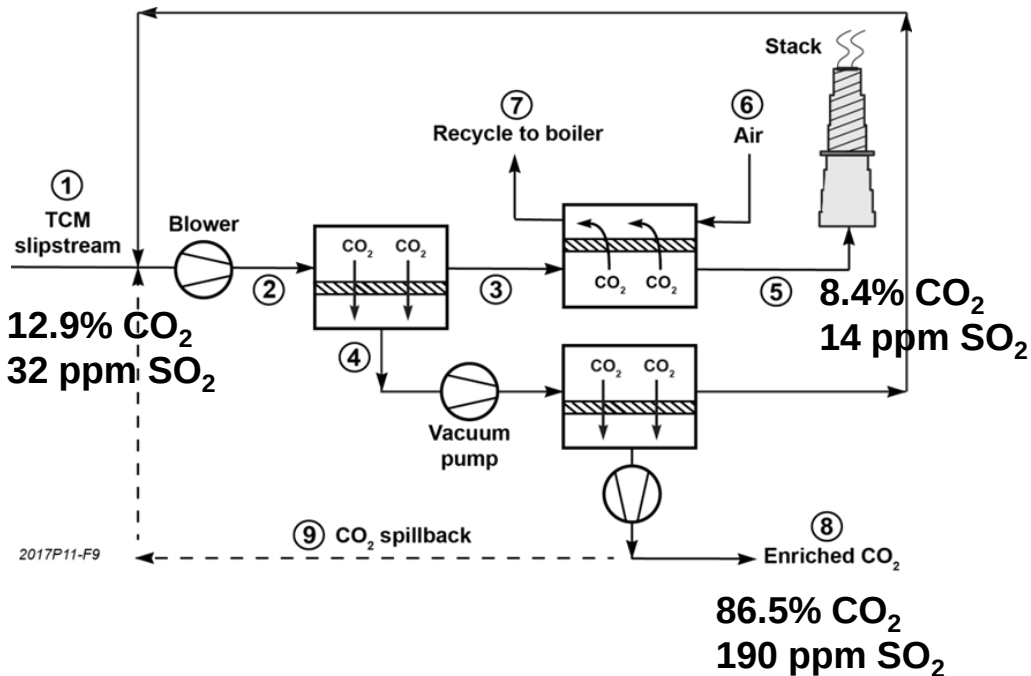


Membrane  
Stacks  
Container

- System has a single membrane container. Future larger systems will have multiples of this unit building block

# System Start Up

- Test system first ran on flue gas on July 28
- Initial run time focused on shakedown operations, verifying measurements, etc
- Preliminary results from baseline operation at full flow show expected removal and enrichment of CO<sub>2</sub>
- Parametric test to start in Aug; about a month of parametric testing planned, followed by SS operation at optimal conditions



# Test Plan for TCM Campaign

- Received input from DOE, TCM and CCSI2 team on test plan
  - 25 parametric tests identified
  - Adjustable parameters: flue gas flow rate, temperature, sweep air flow rate, and CO<sub>2</sub> concentration to 1<sup>st</sup> stage membrane
  - Will use these variables to explore capture rates from 50% to 95% and CO<sub>2</sub> feed content from ~13% to 20%
- Unique aspects of TCM field test
  - Ability to measure dynamic response of test system
  - Ability to measure particulate concentration/size distribution and impact on performance
  - Metal coupon testing of membrane generated streams: carbon steel, Ni plated CS, 304 SS, 316 SS, Al 6061, etc

# Next Steps



- The TCM small pilot test campaign will end after 6 months of operation in Q1 2022
- This membrane test system will be available for other pilot demonstrations; interest for industrial capture trials in US and Europe
- The modular membrane capture approach will be further demonstrated at larger scale (150 TPD) at the Wyoming ITC

# Summary

- Membrane stacks and test system were fabricated, QC tested, and shipped to Norway in spring 2021
- TCM prepared their 3<sup>rd</sup> test site for system arrival and then assisted MTR personnel with installation and startup activities, culminating with flue gas operation in July
- Shakedown operations now underway; initial performance on TCM flue gas is consistent with expectations
- Parametric test plan to start soon; about a month of parametric testing within 6 month campaign
- Test data will be used to update TEA, TGA, and EH&S report in BP3
- Project will finish Q1 2022, after which we plan to reuse test system

# Acknowledgements

This material is based upon work supported by the Department of Energy under Award Number DE-FE0031591.

## **Disclaimer**

This report was prepared as an account of work sponsored by an agency of the United States Government. Neither the United States Government nor any agency thereof, nor any of their employees, makes any warranty, express or implied, or assumes any legal liability or responsibility for the accuracy, completeness, or usefulness of any information, apparatus, product, or process disclosed, or represents that its use would not infringe privately owned rights. Reference herein to any specific commercial product, process, or service by trade name, trademark, manufacturer, or otherwise does not necessarily constitute or imply its endorsement, recommendation, or favoring by the United States Government or any agency thereof. The views and opinions of authors expressed herein do not necessarily state or reflect those of the United States Government or any agency thereof.

---

# EXTRA SLIDES

---

# Budget Period 3 Milestones

| Milestone Number          | Task/ Subtask No. | Milestone Description                                            | Planned Completion Date (*) | Verification Method |
|---------------------------|-------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| Phase 3 / Budget Period 3 |                   |                                                                  |                             |                     |
| 11                        | 8.1               | Test System Commissioned on Flue Gas                             | 7/31/21                     | Quarterly Report    |
| 12                        | 8.3               | Parametric Tests Completed, Long Term Performance Testing Begins | 9/30/21                     | Quarterly Report    |
| 13                        | 8.4               | Long Term Performance Testing Completed                          | 12/31/21                    | Quarterly Report    |
| 14                        | 10                | Complete Techno-Economic Analysis Report                         | 2/1/22                      | Topical Report      |
| 15                        | 11                | Complete Technology Gap Analysis Report                          | 2/1/22                      | Topical Report      |
| 16                        | 12                | Complete Environmental Health and Safety Risk Assessment Report  | 2/1/22                      | Topical Report      |
| 17                        | M1                | Submit Final Report                                              | 5/31/22                     | Final Report        |

# Budget Period 3 Scope of Work

- Main objective of BP3 is operation of the test system; tasks include:
  - Task 8: Operate Membrane Test System
  - Task 9: Decommissioning and Site Clean-Up
  - Task 10: Refine Techno-Economic Analysis
  - Task 11: Technology Gap Analysis
  - Task 12: Environmental Health and Safety Risk Assessment
- BP3 budget: \$2,614,694
  - \$1,333,694 Federal, \$1,281,000 Cost Share

# BP2 Budget

| Budget Details                        | Federal Share | Cost Share  | Total        |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|-------------|--------------|
| Total Project (Award Value)           | \$8,166,304   | \$2,579,429 | \$10,745,732 |
| Total Budget Period 1+2 (Planned)     | \$6,832,610   | \$837,093   | \$7,669,702  |
| Total BP1+2 (Actual through May 2021) | \$6,832,610   | \$1,132,992 | \$7,965,602  |
| Total BP1+2 Variance                  | \$0           | \$295,900   | \$295,900    |

- Cost share from MTR and TCM through the end of May 2021 exceeds the original project plan
- This additional contribution from MTR reflects higher than expected costs for system fabrication and installation at TCM
- Most recent estimate for BP3 cost share, reflecting 6 months of testing, indicates total project cost share contribution of ~22.8%