

US DOE partnership to advance geothermal research

The US Department of Energy's geothermal technologies program is partnering with the technical community to advance geothermal systems research and development throughout the country. The investment of up to US\$15 million (A\$17 million) will spur the design and validation of innovative methods for geothermal heat recovery. The funding is part of the program's larger strategy of reaching beyond geothermal communities to elicit expertise from the carbon sequestration, oil and gas, mining, environmental management and academic communities. The geothermal technologies program has a particular interest in permeable sedimentary formations, a widespread geologic resource with a number of reservoirs in regions with high electricity costs. The funding seeks to support geothermal energy research and development projects which must address environmental risk factors associated with recovery of heat from the subsurface and seek to ensure that geothermal energy development is consistent with the highest practicable standards. The projects must also add innovative methods for extracting heat from geologic formations lacking hydrocarbons to the program's technology portfolio and aim to reduce the Levelised Cost of Electricity for new methods of geothermal energy production to between \$0.10 kWh and \$0.06 kWh. DOE's objective is to promote geothermal heat recovery technologies that mitigate or preclude potential adverse environmental impacts of geothermal energy development, production or use; include innovative methods for extracting heat; and alleviate financial risks.

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