

Germany Collaborates On Clean Energy Initiatives

Both Victoria and Queensland have forged agreements with Germany that will pave the way for joint initiatives on energy technology research and development.

Victorian Energy Minister Peter Batchelor says a Memorandum of Understanding has been reached with the Minister of Economic Affairs and Energy for the German State of North-Rhine-Westphalia.

“This new alliance is an excellent example of the type of collaborations that are driving growth in Victoria’s energy sector,” says Batchelor. The MoU calls for the exchange of ideas and information on energy technology developments.

“By developing a relationship with one of Europe’s industrial powerhouses, we can build on what we are doing here in Victoria to provide reliable sources of clean, economical energy for our residents and business,” says Batchelor.

He adds that the collaboration with Germany is part of the Victorian Government’s goal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 60 per cent of levels emitted in 2000 by 2050.

“It also builds on successful collaborations that our industry already has with North Rhine-Westphalia, including International Power’s Hazelwood 2030 Project at the Hazelwood Power Station in the Latrobe Valley,” according to Batchelor.

The 2030 Project is an innovative coal drying and combustion technology initiative based on Australasian and German technologies and expertise.

“For example, the key coal drying technology being used was developed by RWE, an energy company based in North Rhine-Westphalia. Additionally, the Alstom Group – which has a major subsidiary in the German state – is working with International Power as the principal contractor for the project,” says Batchelor.

He says the Hazelwood project is a great example of what can be achieved through international collaboration and, if successful, the demonstration of this technology could lead to the design of new, ultra supercritical plant using 100 per cent dried brown coal as the fuel.

Meanwhile, Queensland Energy Minister Geoff Wilson says the members of the German delegation will be in Brisbane for the Queensland and North Rhine-Westphalia Symposium on clean coal technology and renewable energy.

“Some of Germany and Australia’s leading industry, government and research and development representatives will take part in the symposium,” says Wilson. He will meet the German delegation to discuss future collaborations across the coal and energy sectors.

In 2004, the two states signed a Memorandum of Understanding to expand collaboration in energy research and to strengthen the trade relations of their respective coal industries.

“North Rhine-Westphalia produces one-third of Germany’s electricity and is the country’s leading black coal producer. We have a lot in common and therefore we can share a lot of expertise and information,” Wilson says.

[Source essa news]