

# Advanced Technology Testing at the National Carbon Capture Center

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF  
**ENERGY**



NATIONAL CARBON CAPTURE CENTER

# Project Facts

- Located in Wilsonville, Alabama
- Sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy and its National Energy Technology Laboratory
- Partners include the Electric Power Research Institute and leaders in the power and coal industries



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# Mission and Core Values

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Offering a **world-class neutral** test facility and a highly specialized staff, to **accelerate the commercialization** of advanced technologies and enable coal based power plants to achieve **near-zero emissions (low cost CO<sub>2</sub>)**.



**Unquestionable Trust**  
**Superior Performance**  
**Total Commitment**



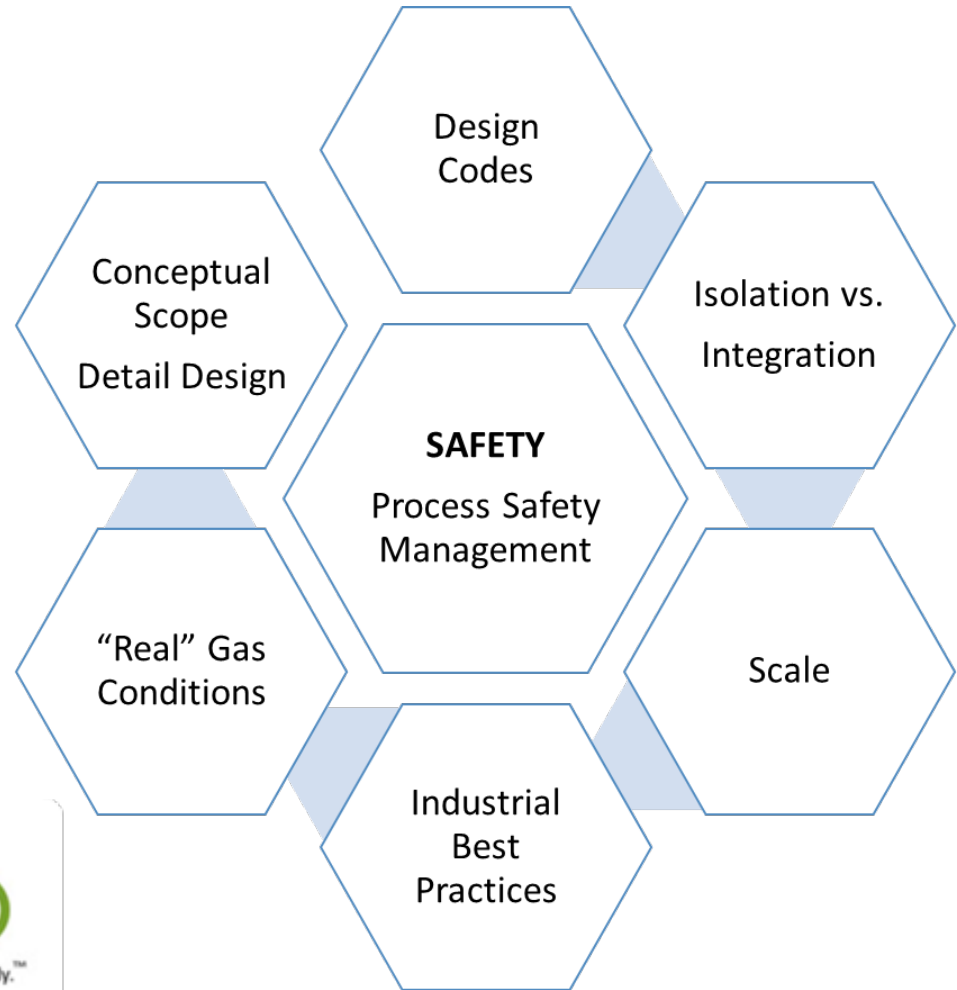
# Safety

## Focus Areas

- Hazard Recognition
- Site Awareness/Drills for Emergency Response
- Near Miss Reporting
- Housekeeping

## Site Programs

- Safety Task Force
- Eyes on Safety
- Target Zero





# Test Sites



**Gasification &  
Pre-Combustion Carbon  
Capture**



**Post-Combustion Carbon  
Capture Center**



*Alabama  
Power Plant  
E.C. Gaston*



# Accomplishments

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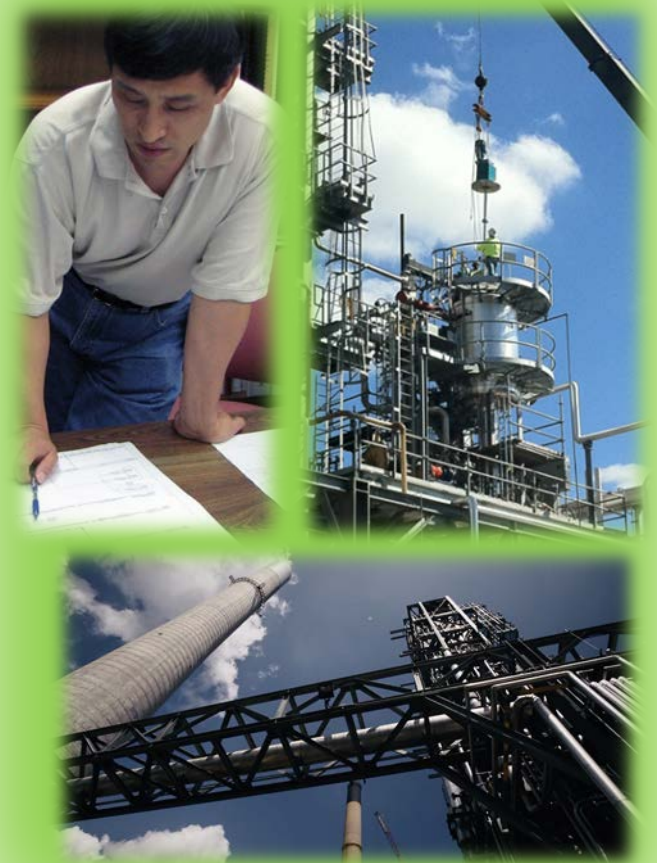
- 20 years with no lost time accidents
- 91,000 test hours for technology developers from U.S. and six other countries since 2008 founding of NCCC
- First coal-derived gas testing of solid oxide fuel cells and certain solvents, membranes, enzymes, etc.
- On-site scale-ups and process enhancements for ten technologies; scale-ups for testing at larger sites for five solvents; scale-up to commercial operation for one solvent
- Full compliance with environmental and government regulations, including on-time submittal and publication of technical reports



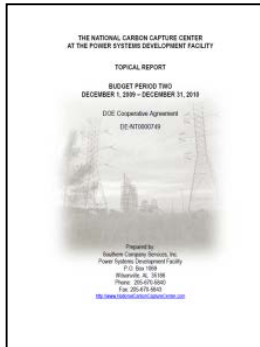


# What NCCC Provides

- A cost-efficient test site for numerous technology developers
- Real industrial conditions with coal-derived flue gas and syngas
- Capability for testing at multiple scales and for on-site scale-ups
- Expert staff for support of design, installation, and testing
- High quality data acquisition and gas/liquid sampling and analysis



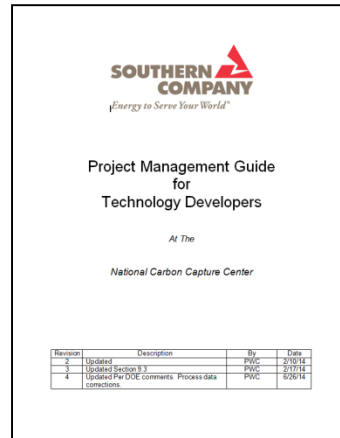
# Technology Development Process



Evaluate and Screen Technologies



Define Scope of Work with Technology Developer



Analyze Data and Report

Design and Construct



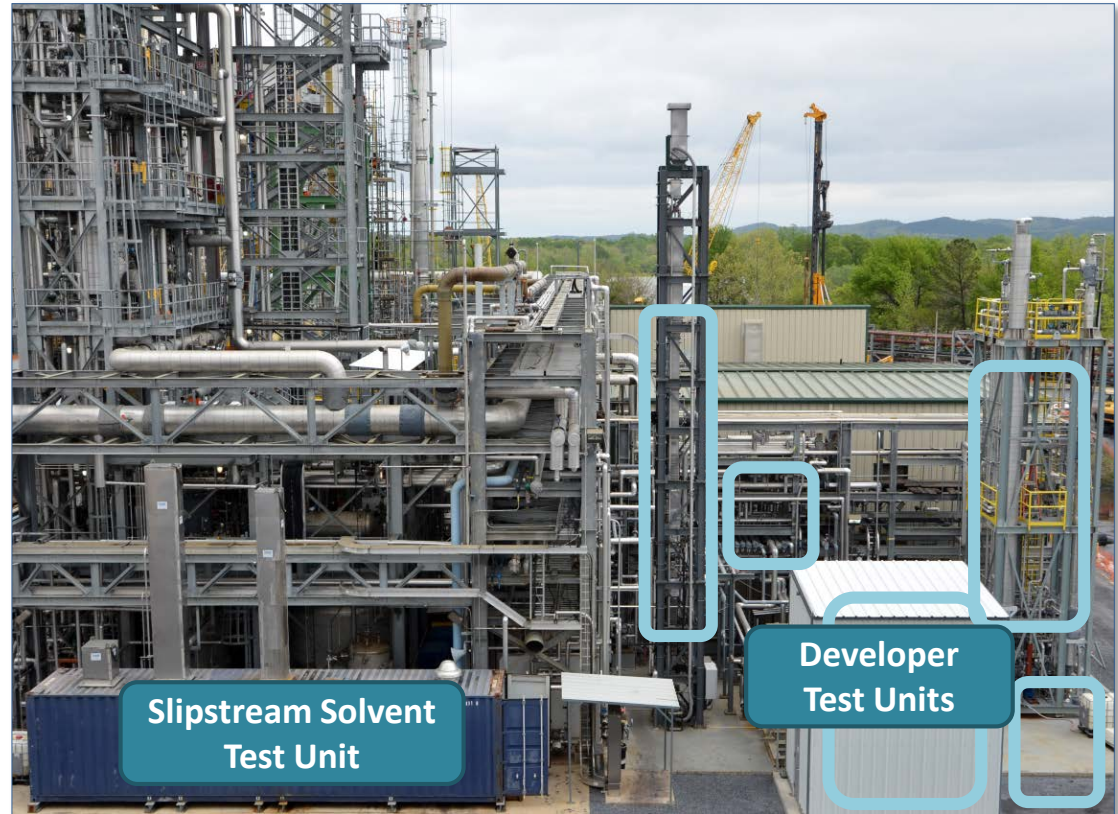
Operate according to Test Matrix





# PC4 Bench-Scale

- Simultaneous operation of up to five developers' test units
- Slipstream Solvent Test Unit (SSTU) for solvents in early development
- SSTU also used for solvent emissions studies and emission mitigation processes
- Flue gas/utilities and gas analysis systems operating independently of PC4 pilot-scale area



# PC4 Pilot-Scale

- Simultaneous operation of developer test units and Pilot Solvent Test Unit (PSTU)
- PSTU offers flexible operation to match developers' planned commercial configuration
- PSTU also supports solvent emissions and degradation studies





# Post-Combustion Accomplishments

- PC4 operation supported over 41,500 hours of technology testing
  - Over 6,000 hours under natural gas conditions
  - More than 20 developer projects completed
  - Tested enzymes, membranes, sorbents, solvents, and associated systems
  - Continued relationship with technology developers to achieve scale-ups and process enhancements
- PSTU operation for more than 13,000 hours
  - Demonstrated near 100% mass and energy balance closures
  - Supported commercial developers and DOE Carbon Capture Simulation Initiative
  - Several solvents progressed to further testing at other facilities
- Facility construction and upgrades
  - PC4 constructed in under three years
  - Plant capacity more than doubled from 12,000 to 30,000 lb/hr flue gas
  - Added systems (SSTU, air dilution, etc.) and enhanced instrumentation, sampling methods, and analysis systems





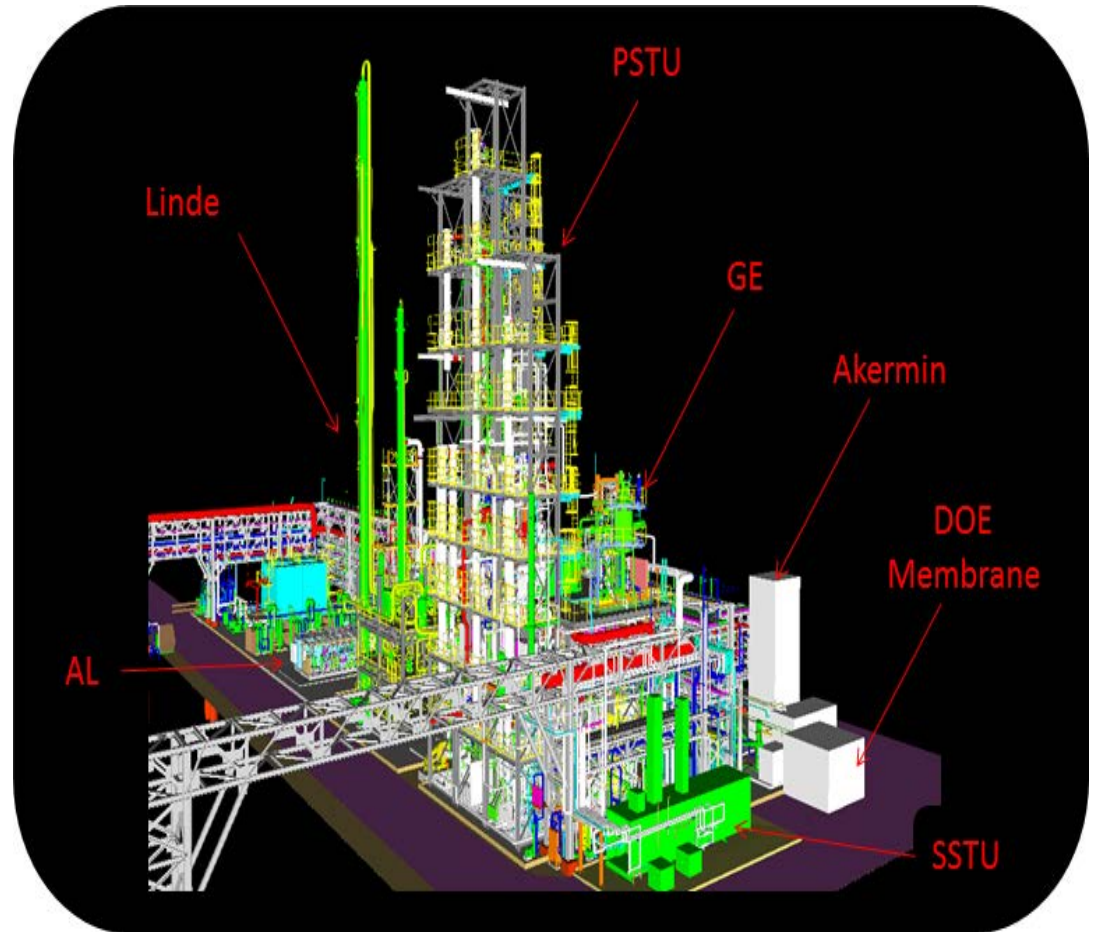
# Current Post Combustion Tests

## Pilot-scale

- GE w/ PSTU
- Linde/BASF @PB2
- Air Liquide @PB3

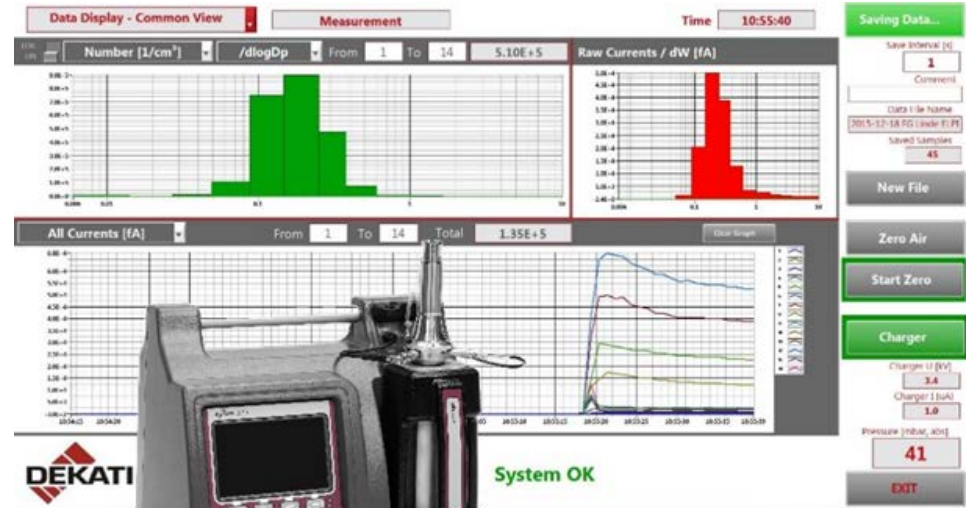
## Bench-scale

- DOE Membrane
- Akermin (PH2)
- SSTU
  - Baseline/emission
  - Green Technology: additive to amine
  - Cansolv

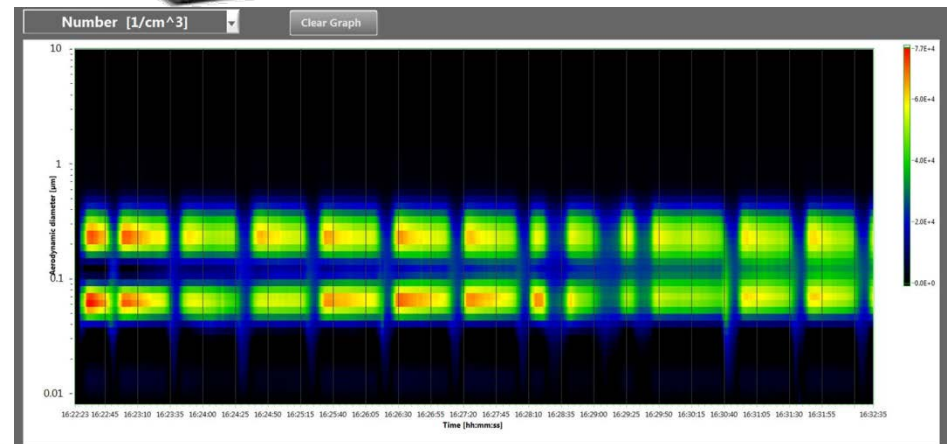


# Aerosol/Emissions Testing

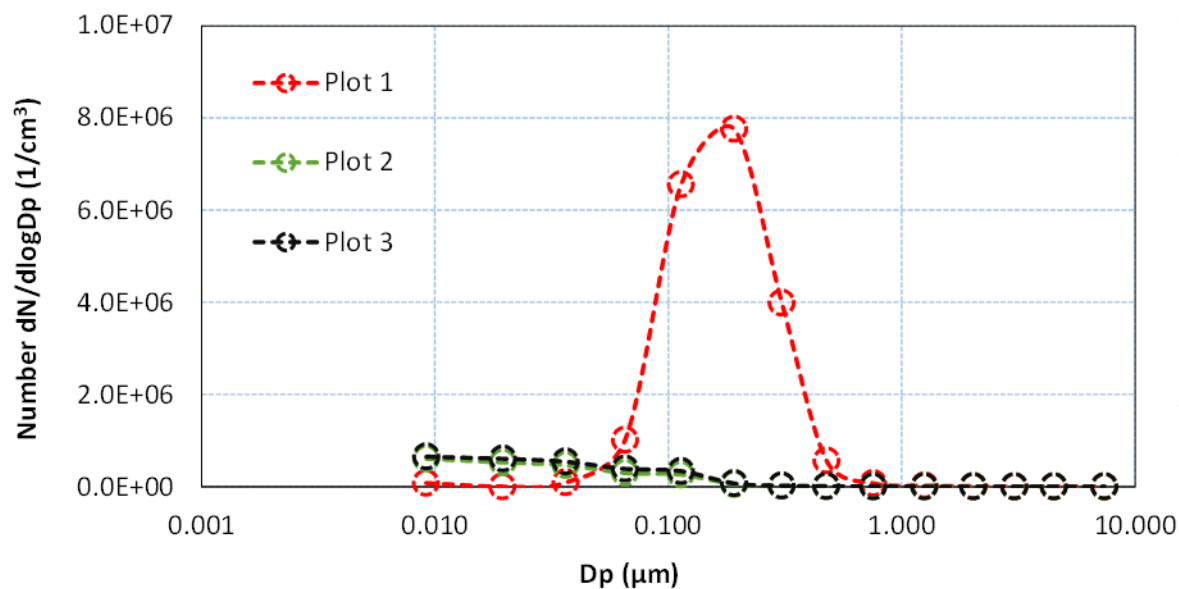
- Post-baghouse installation effects on flue gas properties underway.
- Effect on amine emissions from capture units being quantified.
- Use Electric Low Pressure Impactor (ELPI<sup>+</sup><sup>TM</sup>) to measure particle size distribution and count in real time.



DEKATI ELPI<sup>+</sup><sup>TM</sup>



# Aerosol Test Results



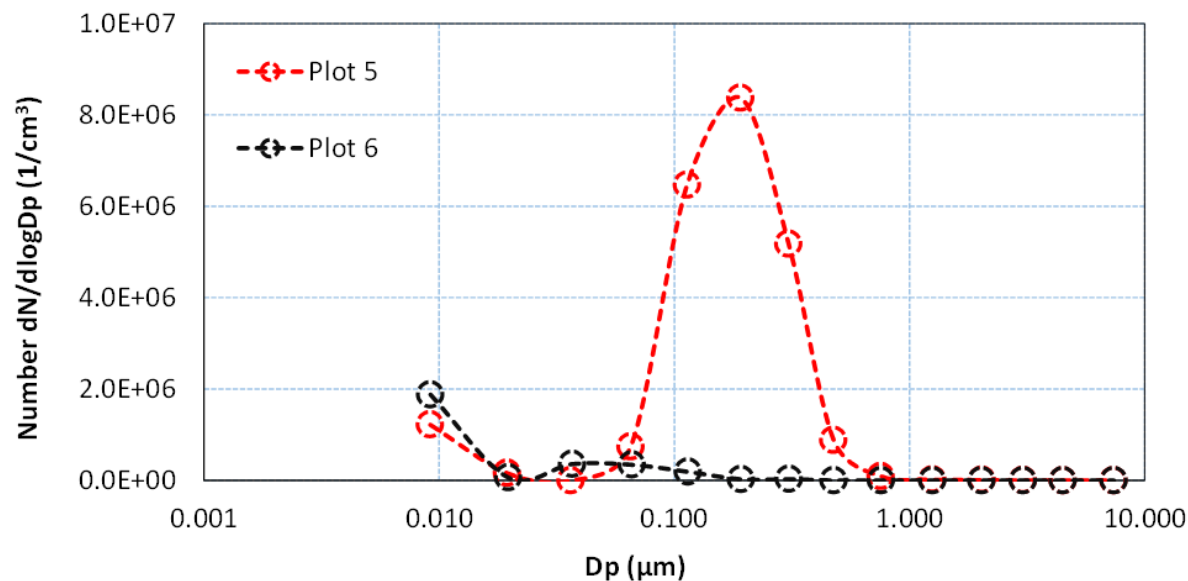
- Aerosol number dropped significantly after the bag-house installation
- Low dilution temperature has very minimal effect on aerosol number concentration measured after the bag house installation
- More than 97% of cumulative aerosol number is below 0.1µm after the bag house installation

- E.C. Gaston power plant operating at low load
- Aerosol number concentration plotted before (Plot 1) and after (Plot 2 & 3) the E.C Gaston bag house installation
- Plot 1: Relatively high 150°F of Dilution Temperature as tests done in December, 2015
- Plot 2 and 3: 150°F and 110°F Dilution Temperatures respectively, tests done in June 2016





# Aerosol Test Results



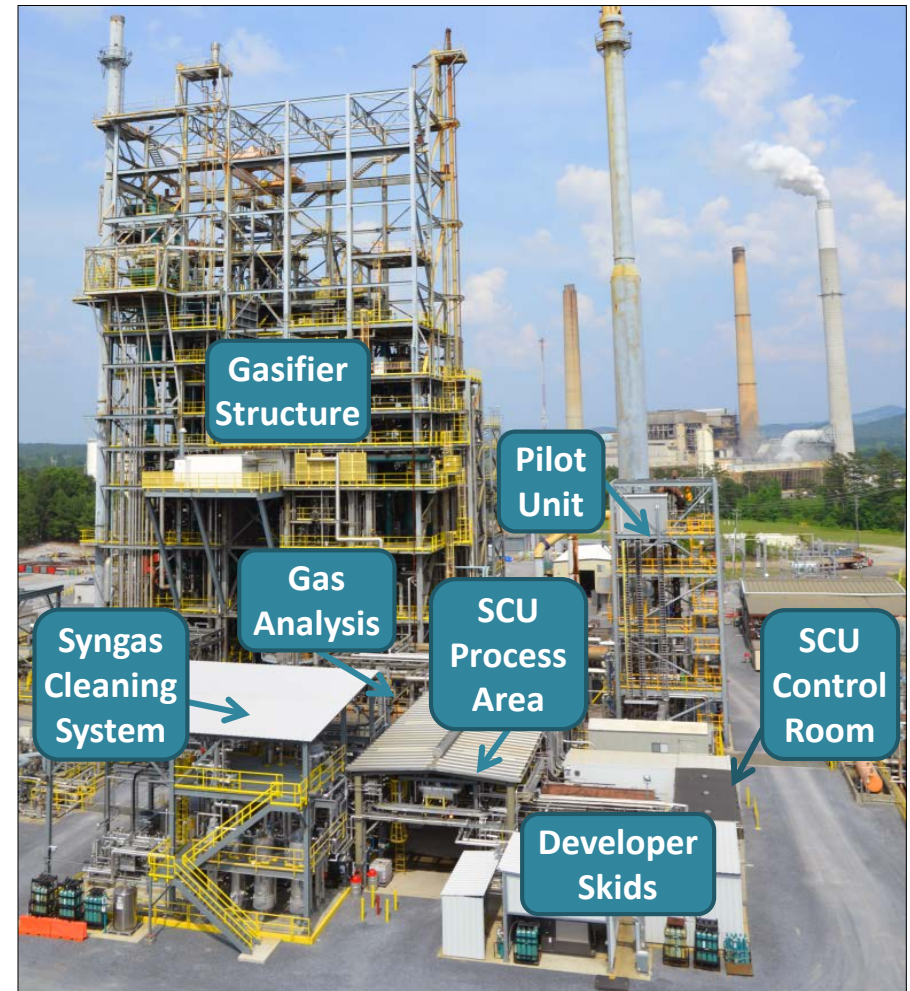
- Aerosols in the size of around  $0.01\mu\text{m}$  can be observed when the load increased
- More than 98% of cumulative aerosol number is below  $0.10\mu\text{m}$  after the bag house installation
- Further tests are on-going to investigate the effect of bag house installation on aerosol numbers

- E.C. Gaston power plant operating at relatively high load
- Aerosol number concentration plotted before (Plot 5) and after (Plot 6) the E.C Gaston bag house installation
- Aerosol number dropped significantly after the bag-house installation



# Pre-Combustion/Gasification Infrastructure

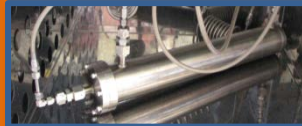
- Coal-derived syngas from the Transport Gasifier train, in operation since 1996
- Operations conducted for nominally three 750-hour runs per year
- Syngas Conditioning Unit (SCU) with slipstreams at 5 to 500 lb/hr and syngas pre-treatments and process conditions tailored for each developer's needs
- Pilot unit for operation at 1,000 lb/hr
- State-of-the-art gas analysis and data acquisition
- On-site labs for sample analysis and processing



# Gasification & Pre-Combustion Accomplishments

- Gasifier operation supported over 47,000 hours of technology testing
  - Biomass gasification in air- and oxygen-blown operation
  - Sensors: Tunable Diode Laser, particulate monitor, thermowells, coal feeder instrumentation
  - Catalysts: Fischer-Tropsch, water-gas shift, and COS hydrolysis
  - Sorbents: trace metals, CO<sub>2</sub>, ammonia
  - Membranes: hydrogen and CO<sub>2</sub>
  - Advanced processes: ammonium carbonate/bicarbonate solvent, syngas chemical looping, pressure-swing adsorption, pressure-swing Claus
  - Fuel cells
- Additional operation with CO<sub>2</sub> solvents, both on-line and off-line
- Achieved scale-ups and process intensification for several technologies including membranes, catalysts, sorbents
- Major upgrades to infrastructure such as new SCU control room and gas analysis building











MTR

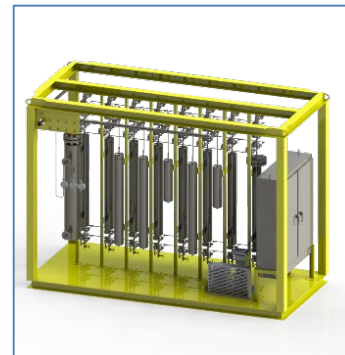




# G3/G4 Test Campaign Summary










- 1,457 hours of gasifier operation
  - 581 hours on PRB coal, 876 hours on lignite coal
- 9,990 technology developer testing hours

<i>Developer</i>	<b>Technology</b>	<b>Hours</b>
	Chemical Looping	120
	Solvent	400
	Hydrogen Membrane	1,100
 <b>Media and Process Technology</b>	Hydrogen Membrane	406
	CO2 Sorbent with Integrated WGS	650
	Temperature Sensors	1,900
	Particulate Monitoring Sensor	1,900
 Johnson Matthey	Mercury Sorbent	1,167
	Solvent	40
	WGS	1,081
	COS	1,233



# G5 Test Campaign

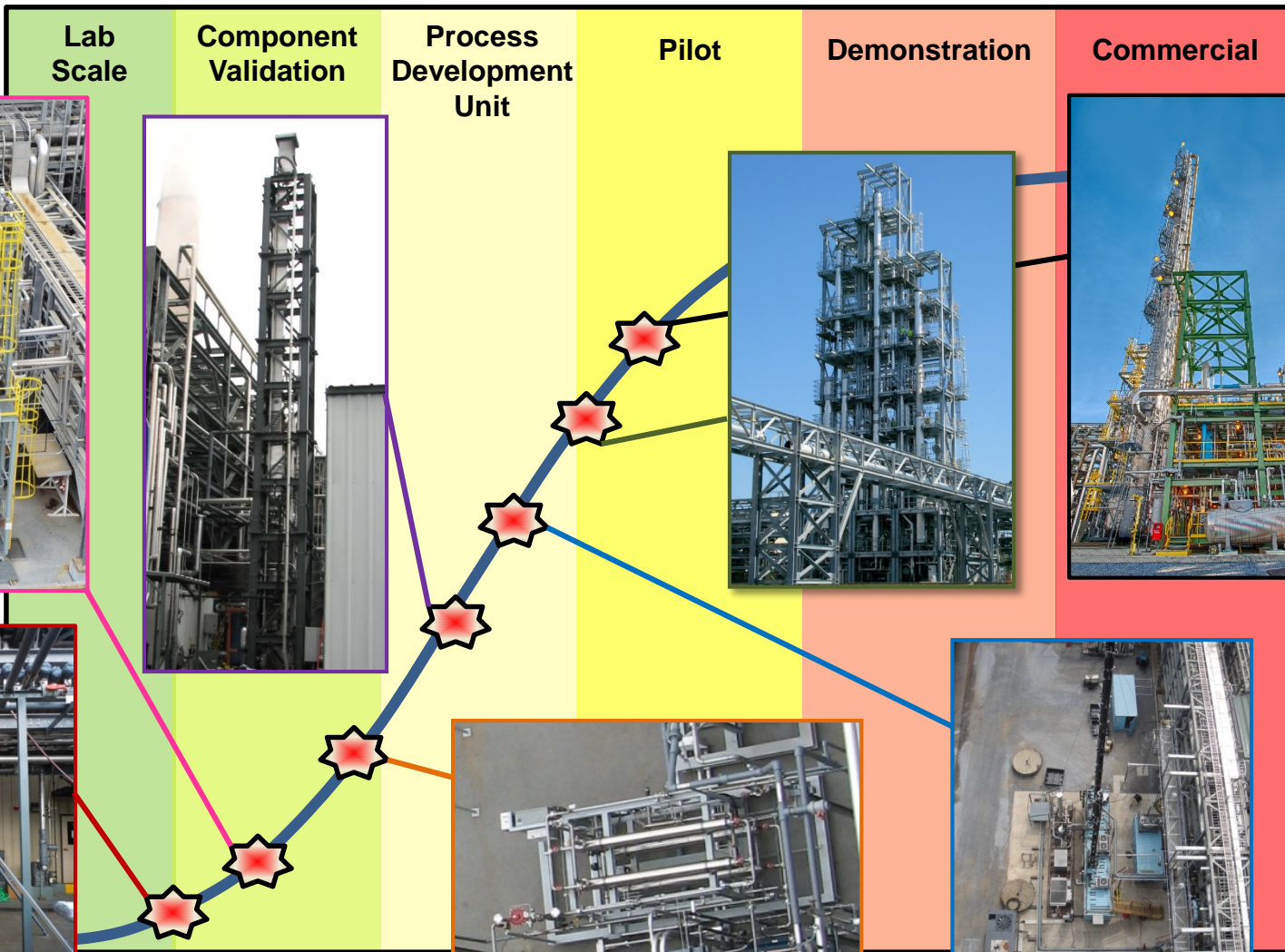
- 750 hours
  - PRB coal operation

<i>Developer</i>	<i>Technology</i>
	Chemical Looping
	Hydrogen Membranes
	Hydrogen Membrane
	Coal-To-Liquids
	Syngas Reformer
	PBI Membrane
	CO2 Sorbent with Integrated WGS
	0.1 MWe Sorbent System
 Johnson Matthey	Mercury Sorbent
	Temperature Sensors
	3D Level Measurement
	WGS
	COS





# Successful Testing and Partnerships





# INTERNATIONAL TEST CENTER NETWORK

## Share CO<sub>2</sub> Capture Knowledge

*to encourage global collaboration and accelerate technology development of cost effective CO<sub>2</sub> capture processes*



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF  
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**SOUTHERN**  
**COMPANY**



# Members



# Acknowledgements



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More information: [www.nationalcarboncapturecenter.com](http://www.nationalcarboncapturecenter.com)

