

# **Development and Bench-Scale Testing of a Novel Biphasic Solvent-Enabled Absorption Process for Post-Combustion Carbon Capture (DE-FE0031600)**

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## **Project Kickoff Meeting**

Presenter: Yongqi Lu

Illinois State Geological Survey

**Pittsburgh, PA · May 10, 2018**

# Project Team and Key Personnel

## □ University of Illinois:

### Illinois State Geological Survey

- David Ruhter (MS, Lab Manager)
- Hafiz Salih (PhD, Environmental Engineer)
- Hong Lu (PhD, Chemical Engineer)
- Qing Ye (Post-Doctoral Research Fellow)
- Varenja Mehta (MS, Environmental Engineer)
- Yang Du (PhD, Chemical Engineer)
- Yongqi Lu (PhD, Chemical/Environmental Engineer)

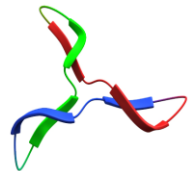


### Illinois Sustainable Technology Center

- BK Sharma (PhD, Senior Chemical Engineer)
- Kevin O'Brien (PhD, Director)
- Wei Zheng (PhD, Senior Chemist)

## □ Trimeric Corporation:

- Darshan Sachde (PhD, Senior Chemical Engineer)
- Katherine Dombrowski (Principal Technical Staff)
- Kevin Fisher (VP, P.E., Principal Engineer)
- Ray McKaskle (P.E., Principal Engineer)



# Objectives

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- ❑ Advance the development of a transformational biphasic CO<sub>2</sub> absorption technology from lab- to bench-scale
- ❑ Design, fabricate and test a 40 kWe bench-scale capture unit with simulated and actual coal flue gas
- ❑ Demonstrate the technology progressing toward achieving the DOE's Transformational Capture goals

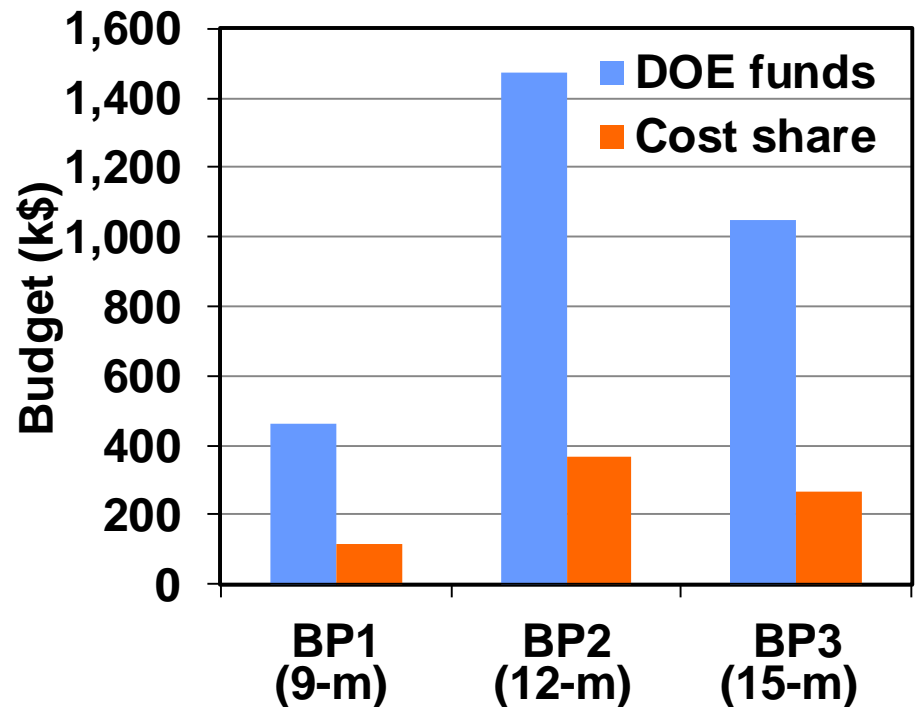
# Budget Profile and Duration

Project duration: 36 mon, 3 Budget Periods (4/6/18–4/5/21)

- BP1: 9 mon (4/6/18-1/5/19)
- BP2: 12 mon (1/6/19-1/5/20)
- BP3: 15 mon (1/6/20-4/5/21)

## Funding Profile:

- DOE funding of \$2,981,779
- Cost share (in-kind) of \$750,051 (20.1%)



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# **Technical Background**

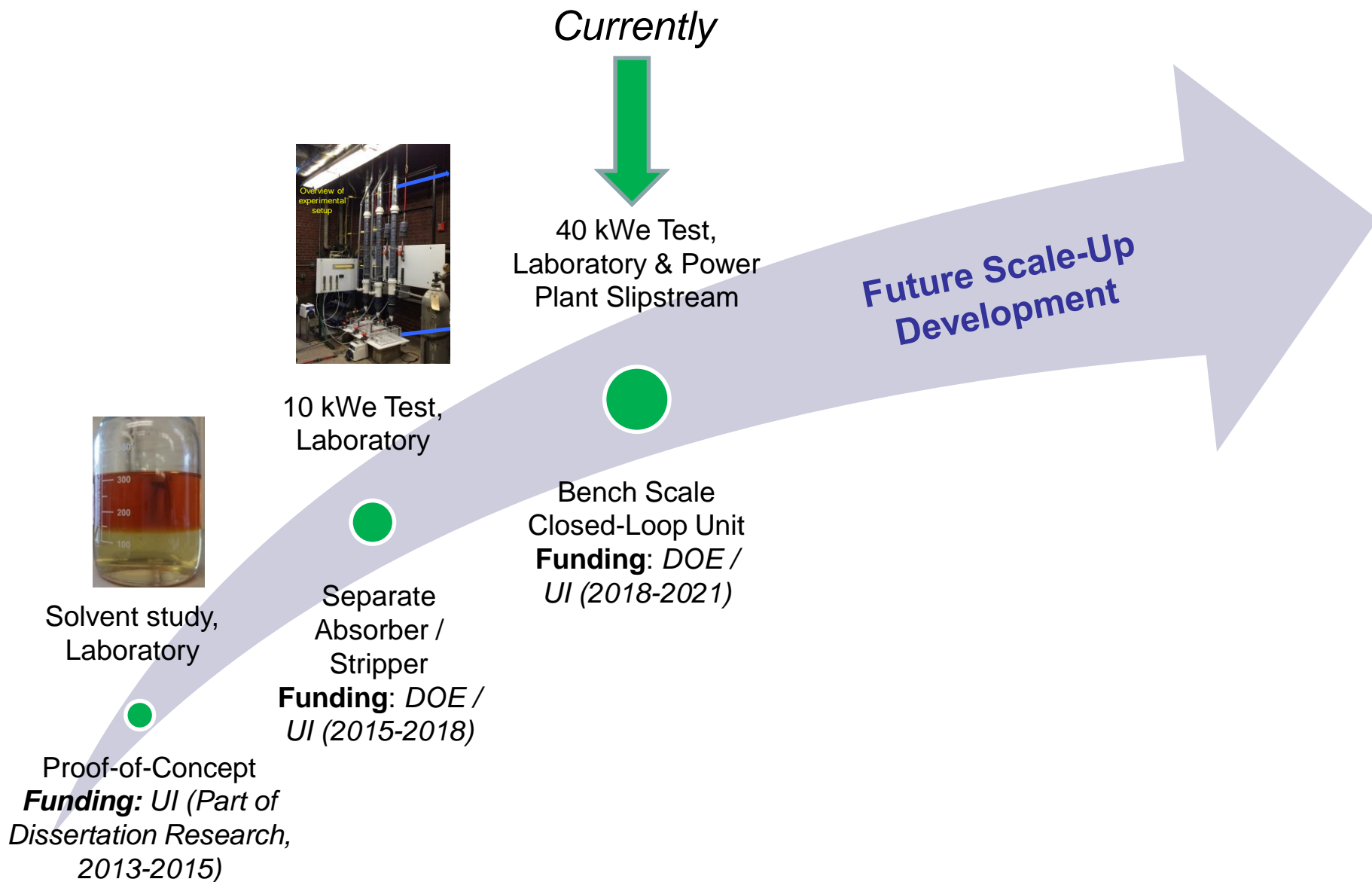
**Project Task Flow and Organization**

**Scope of Work and Approaches**

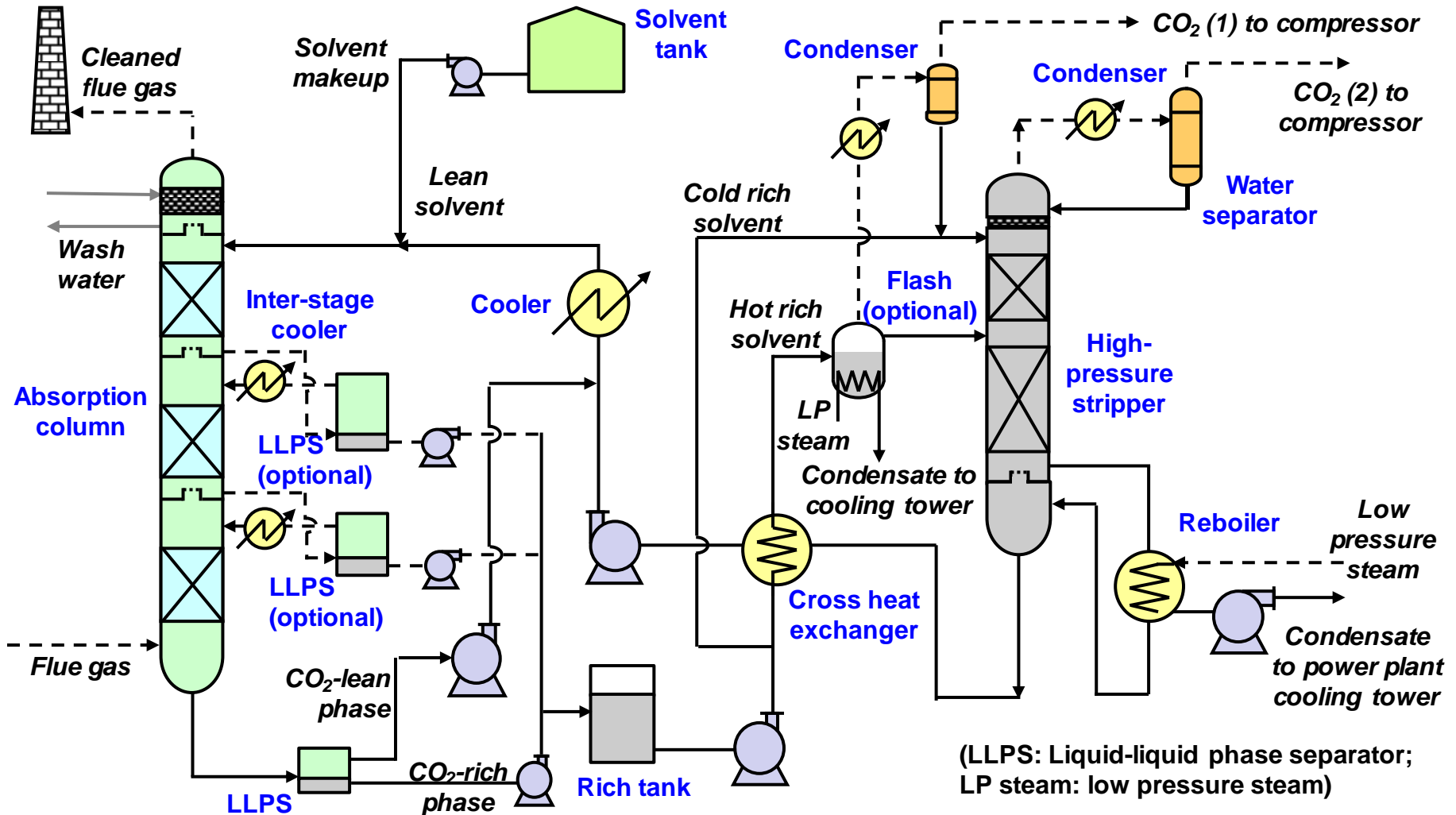
**Project Timeline and Milestones**

**Plan for Future Scale-Up /Development**

# Progression of Technology Development



# Biphasic CO<sub>2</sub> Absorption Process (BiCAP)



# Current Status of Solvent and Process R&D

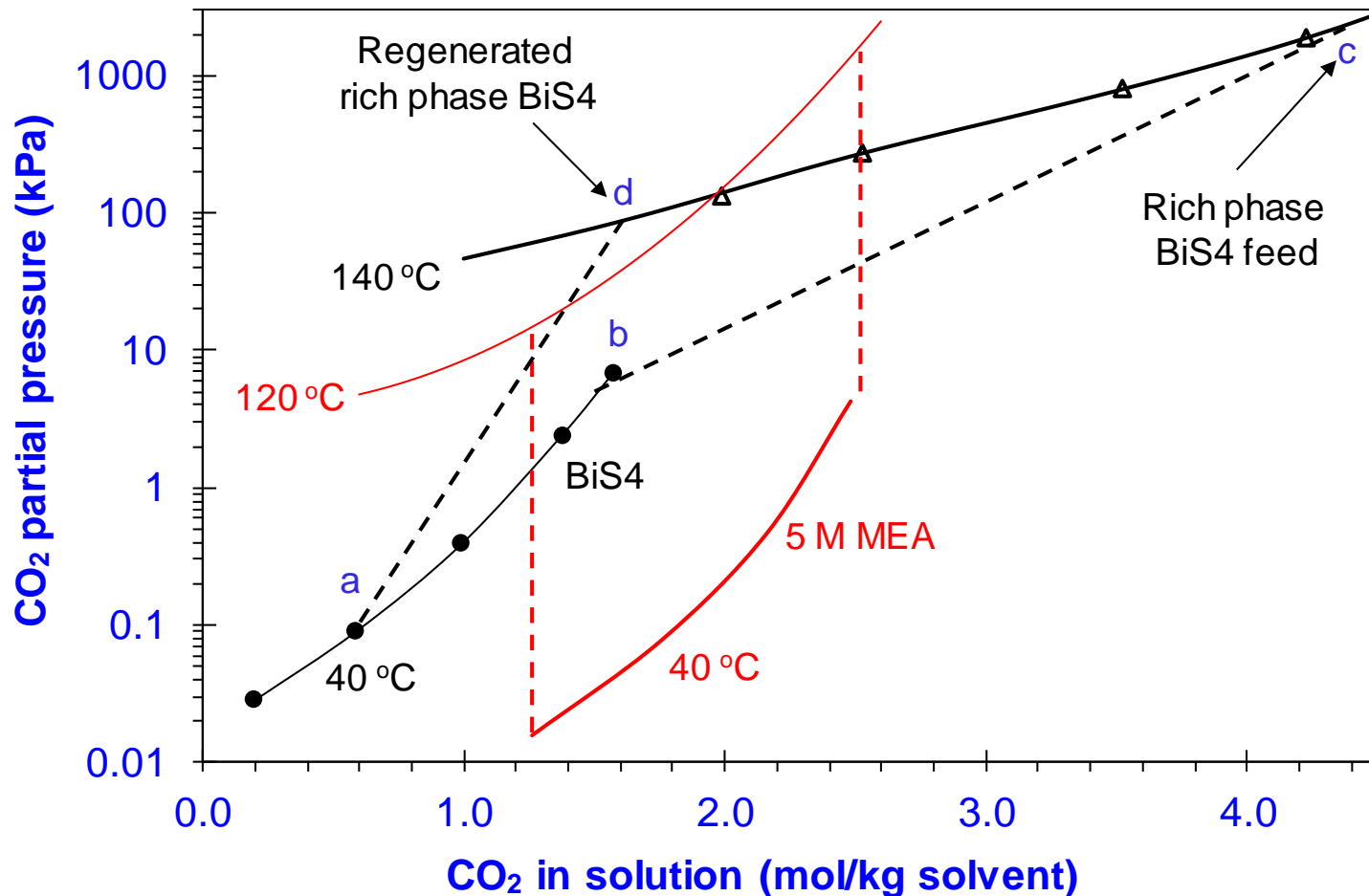
Solvent Development	Results	Status
~80 solvents screened	2 solvents selected	Completed
Vapor-liquid equilibria (VLE)	Measured at both absorption & desorption conditions	Completed
Absorption kinetics	Measured under full ranges of CO <sub>2</sub> loadings	Completed
Oxidation and thermal stabilities	Thermal stability at 150°C = MEA at 120°C; Oxidation degradation ~8 times < MEA	Completed
Viscosity	CO <sub>2</sub> -saturated rich phase solutions < 50 cP	Completed
CO <sub>2</sub> enrichment /phase transition	≥98% of total CO <sub>2</sub> uptake enriched in <50% of original solution	Completed
Heat of desorption	Estimated with VLE data	Completed
Corrosion effect	Less corrosion than MEA on CS or SS	Completed
Volatility	N/A	Not studied



## Cont'd

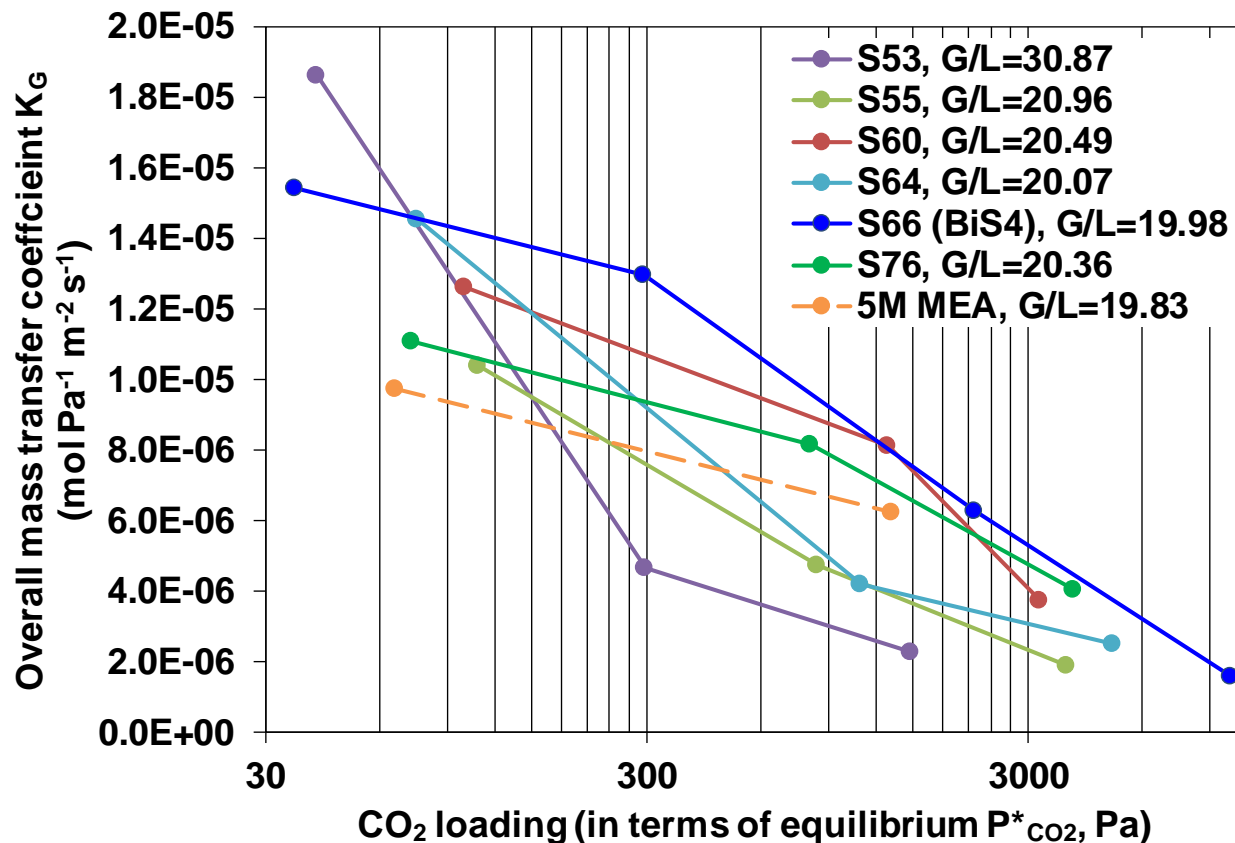
Process Development	Results	Status
CO <sub>2</sub> absorption coupled with multiple stages of phase separation	Process concept demonstrated by successful operation on a lab 10 kWe absorption column; Faster rates of selected biphasic solvents than MEA demonstrated in column testing	Completed
CO <sub>2</sub> flash and stripping desorption process	Process concept being tested on a lab 10 kWe desorption system; MEA tests completed with successful operation; Biphasic solvents under testing now	Ongoing
Process model	Rigorous rate-based Aspen Plus® process simulation model developed for one biphasic solvent	Completed for 1 solvent
Solvent emission control process options	N/A	Not studied
Solvent reclamation process options	N/A	Not studied

# VLE of Biphasic Solvents vs. MEA



- Absorption step: working capacity of BiS4 similar to that of MEA
- Desorption step: working capacity of BiS4 double that of MEA

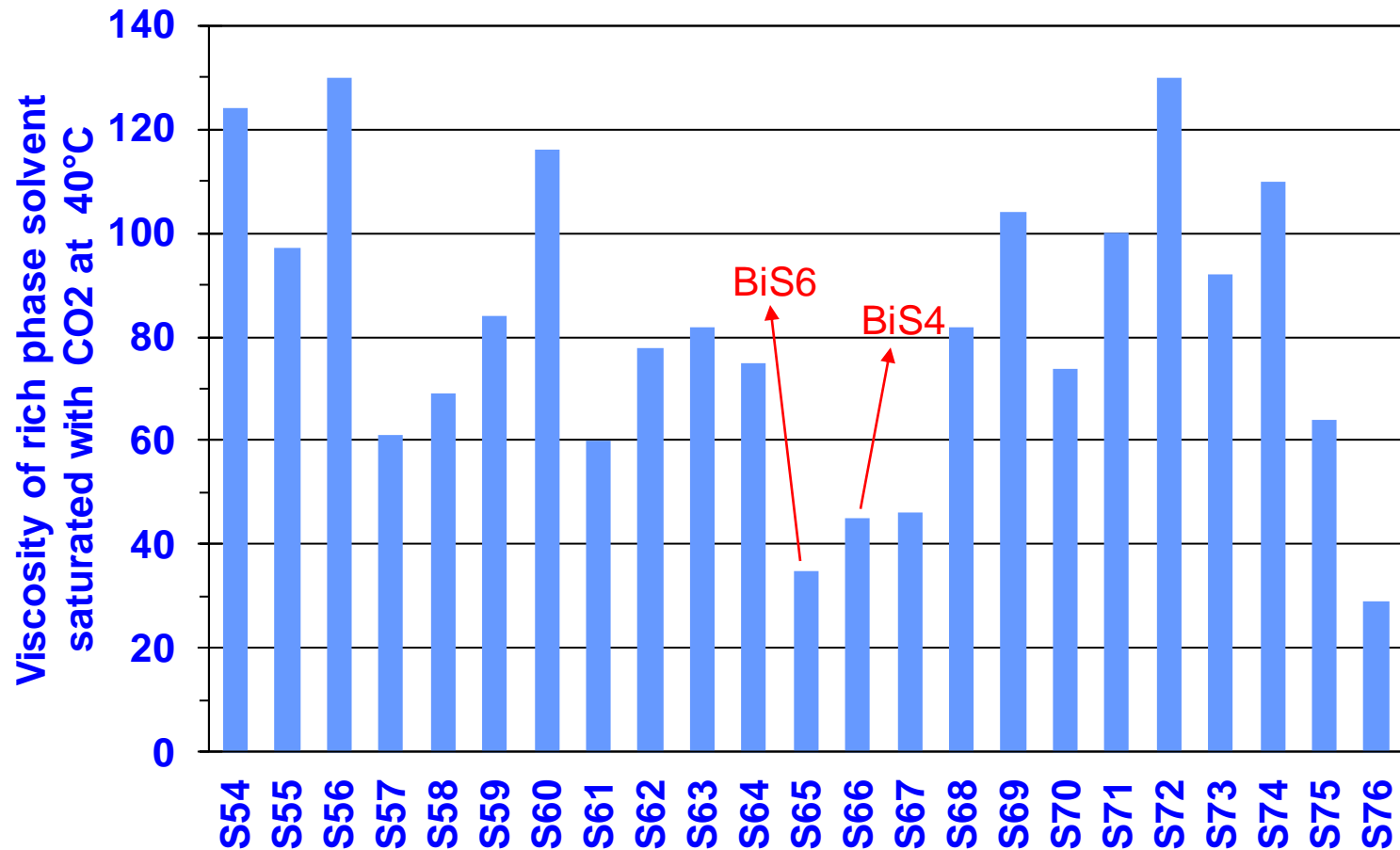
# Absorption Rates of Biphasic Solvents vs. MEA



Example biphasic solvents at  $\text{CO}_2$  loadings over  $P^*_{\text{CO}_2} = 0.03\text{--}5$  kPa at  $40^\circ\text{C}$ :

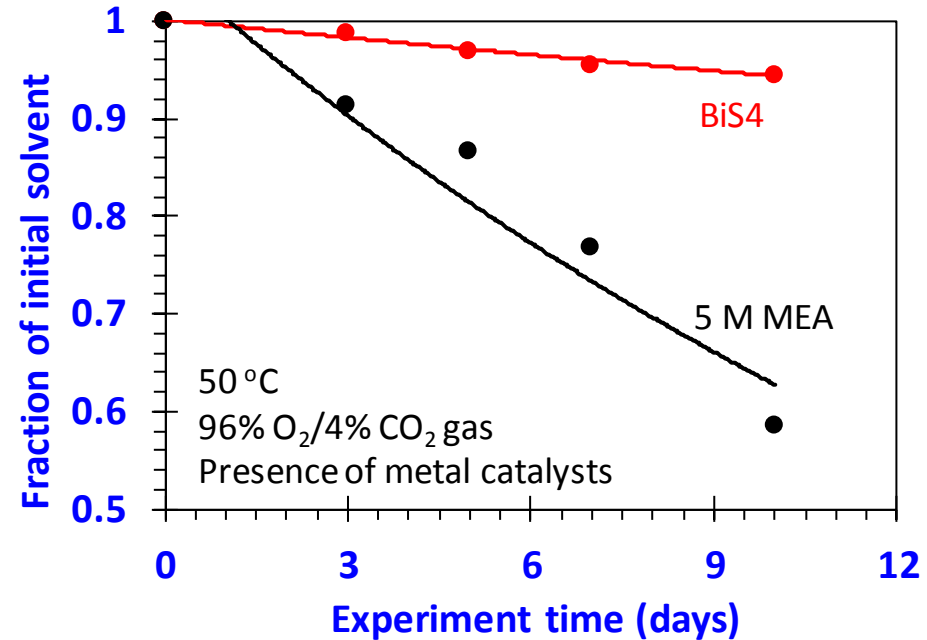
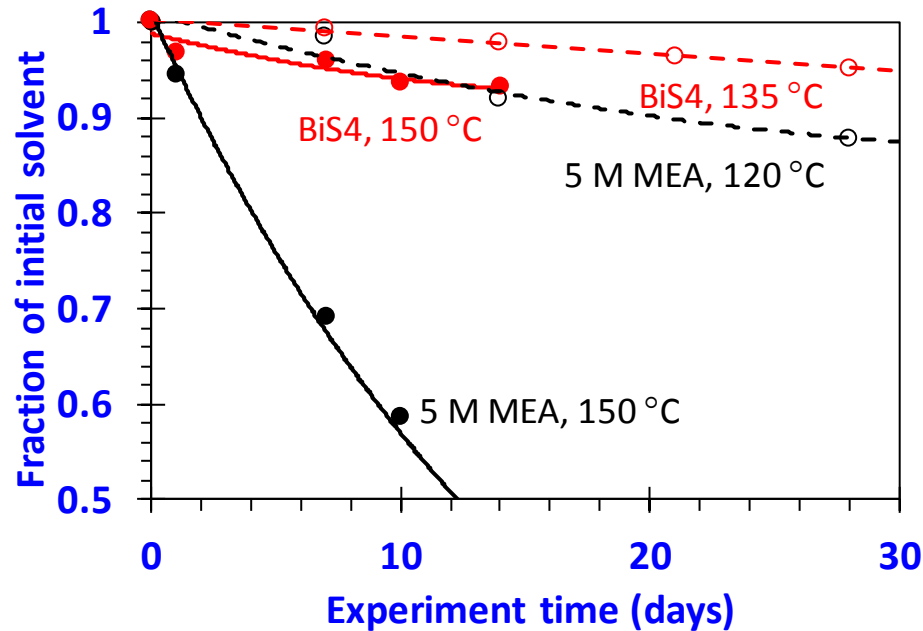
- ❑ Rates slightly faster than (at both lean and rich loadings) or comparable with (faster at lean loading and slower at rich loading) 5M MEA

# Reduced Viscosity for CO<sub>2</sub>-Saturated Rich Phase



- Lean phase viscosity < 9 cP (data not displayed)
- Rich phase viscosity for the selected solvents < 50 cP (most solvents < 100 cp)

# High Thermal and Oxidative Stabilities of Biphasic Solvents



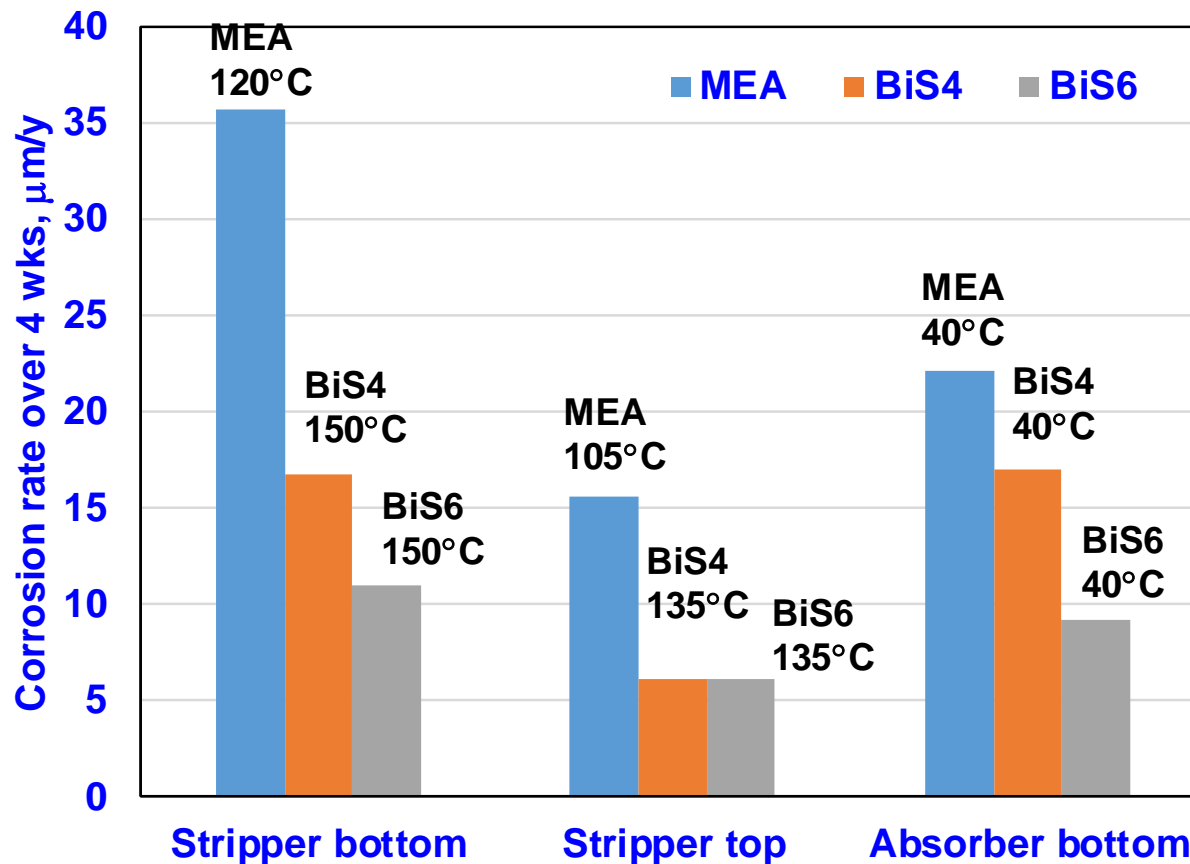
## Thermal stability

- At 150 °C for 14 days, ~5% BiS4 degradation vs. ~50% MEA loss
- Stability of BiS4 at 150 °C  $\approx$  MEA at 120 °C

## Oxidative stability

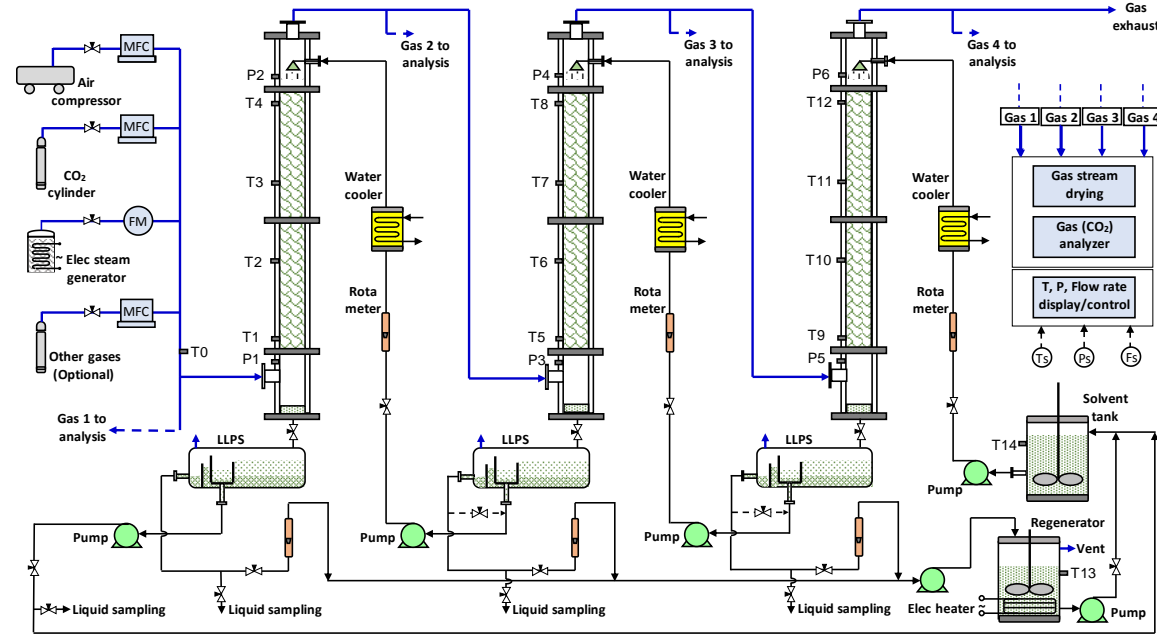
- At 50 °C for 10 days, ~5% BiS4 degradation vs. 40% MEA loss

# Less Corrosion Effect with Biphasic Solvents



- ❑ Corrosion rate of carbon steel by BiS solvents 2-3 times < MEA
- ❑ Corrosion rate of stainless steel at 1.5-4  $\mu\text{m/y}$  for either BiS or MEA (data not shown)

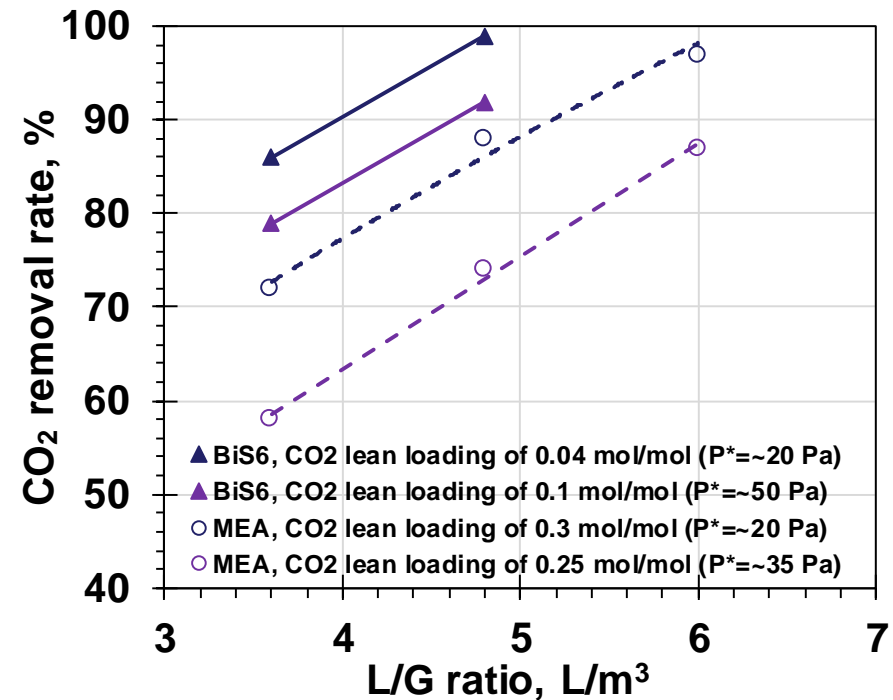
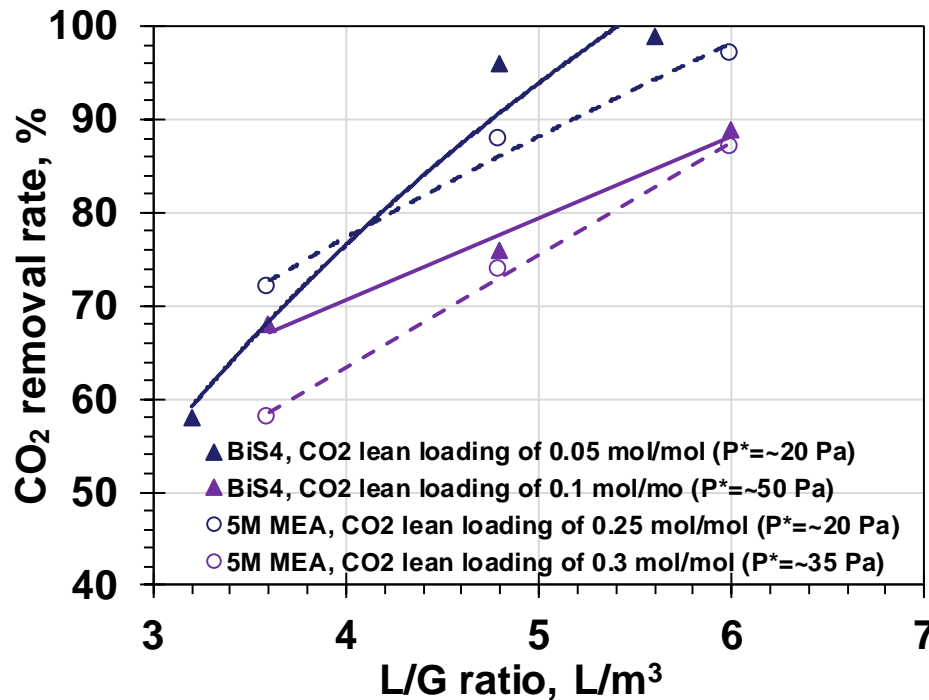
# Laboratory 10 KWe Absorption Unit



- 3 stages of packed bed and phase separator (4-in ID, 7-ft packed-bed for each stage)
- 3 stages in one vertical column envisioned for practical use (arranged side by side in lab to accommodate ceiling limit)



# Stable Operation with Multi-Stage LLPS & Absorption; Rates in Biphasic Solvents Faster Than MEA

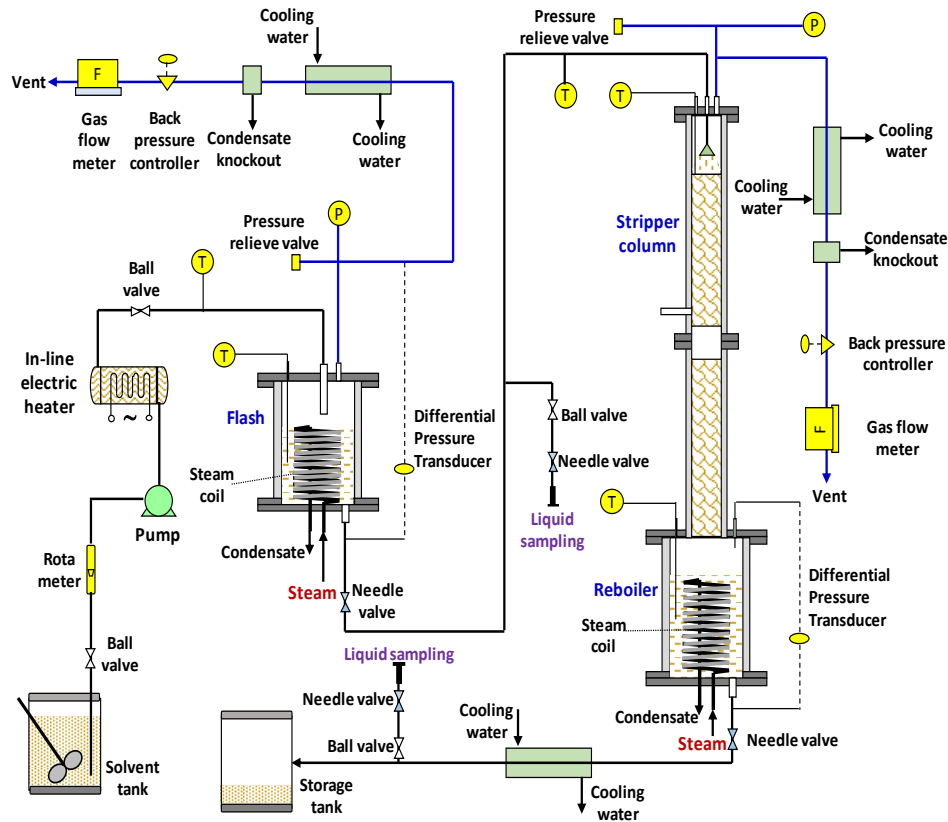


(3-stages of CO<sub>2</sub> absorption tests under 13 vol.% CO<sub>2</sub> in air at 35-40°C)

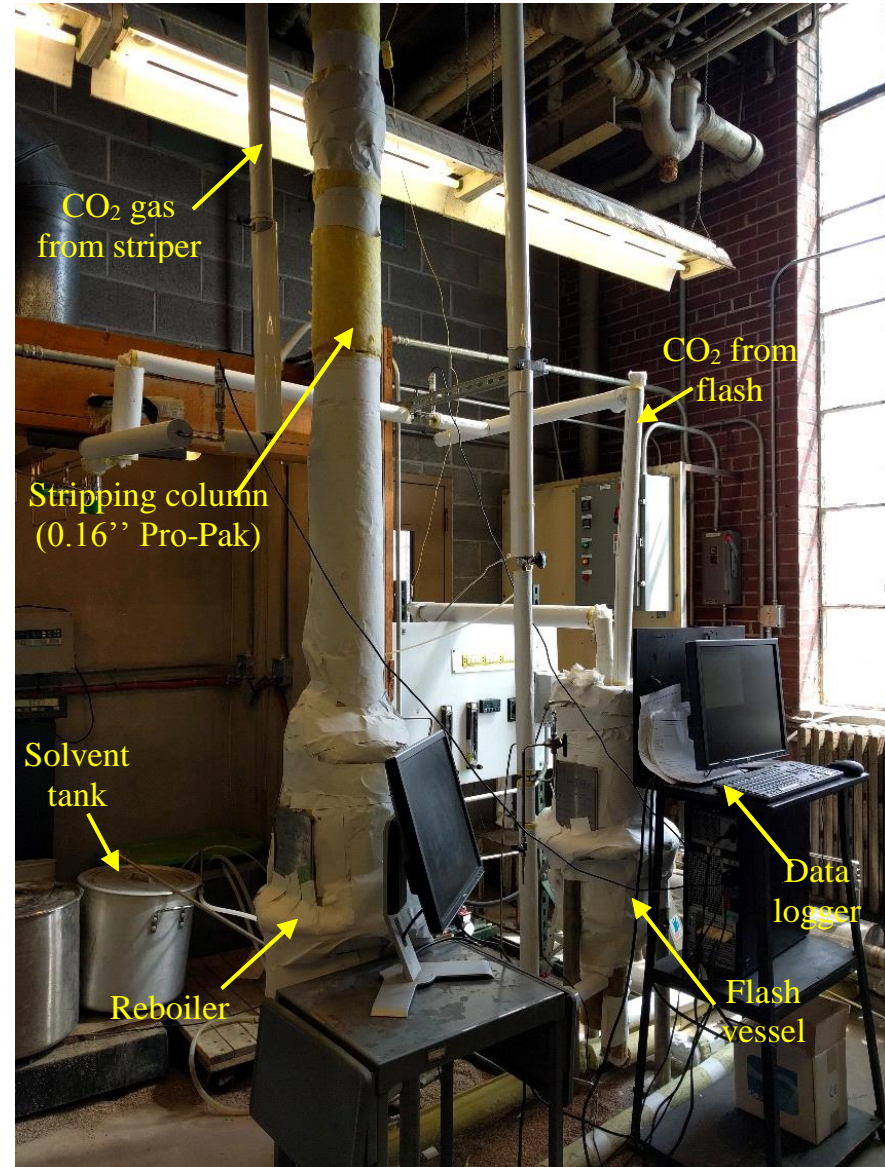
- CO<sub>2</sub> removal rate and loading capacity in the absorption step for the 2 selected solvents (BiS4 and BiS6) outperformed or comparable to 5M MEA under the same L/G and comparable CO<sub>2</sub> lean loading (equiv. to similar equilibrium  $P^*_{\text{CO}_2}$  at 40°C)



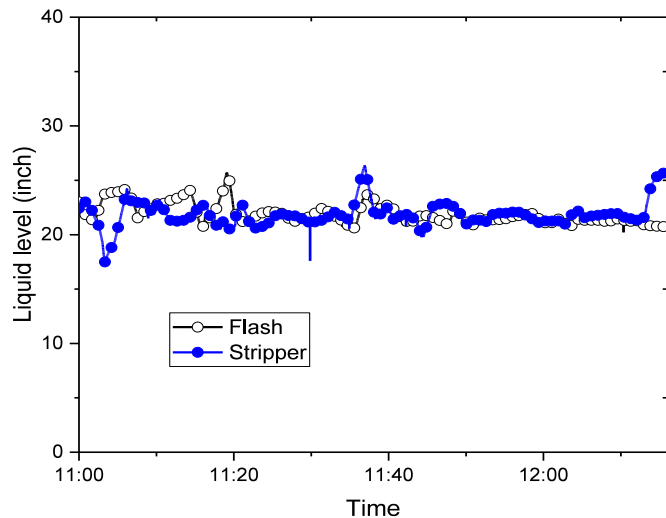
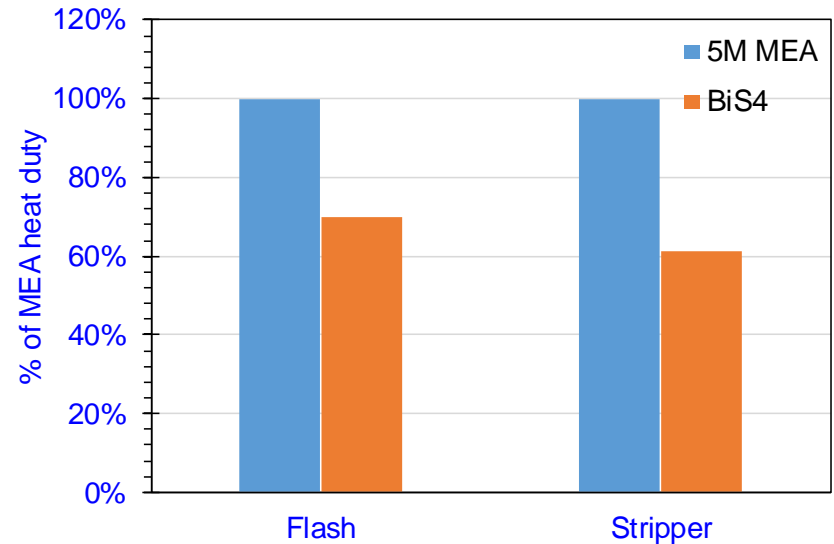
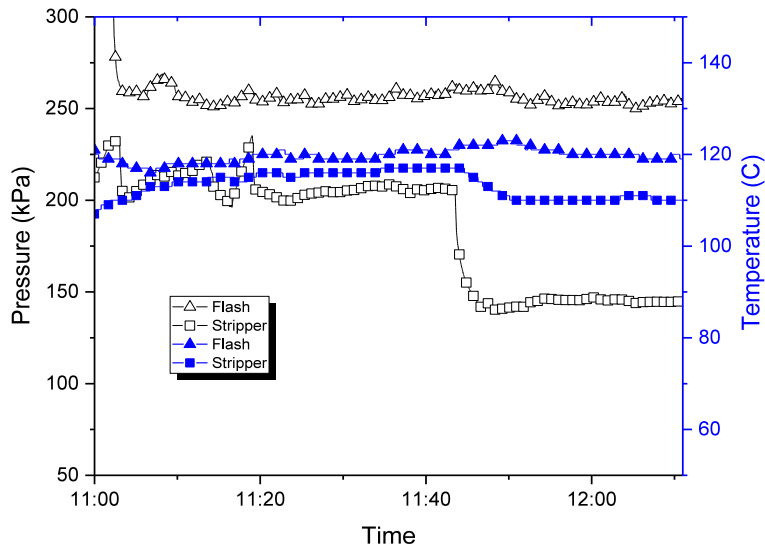
# Laboratory 10 KWe Desorption Unit



- ❑ Flash vessel: 5" ID  $\times$  2' H; max. 3 kW<sub>th</sub> reboiler
- ❑ Stripping column: 2" ID  $\times$  9' H (2 beds) with 0.16" ProPak; max. 6 kW<sub>th</sub> reboiler



# Stable Operation of Combined Flash + Stripper; Experiments Ongoing



- Stable operation of the integrated flash and stripper system
- Heat duty for BiS4 lower than MEA by 30-40% under representative conditions

# Summary of Key Results from Preliminary Process Analysis

	BiCAP	DOE Case 12 Rev 2a	Difference vs. Case 12
<b>CO<sub>2</sub> Capture &amp; Compression</b>			
<b>Total Plant Costs 2007\$</b>	<b>\$378 MM</b>	<b>\$469 MM</b>	<b>-19%</b>
<b>Total Parasitic Demands (MWe)</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>252</b>	<b>-30%</b>
Capture Plant Steam Derate	103	139	-26%
Capture Plant Direct Electrical Derate	39	75	-48%
Power Plant Auxiliary Load	34	38	-10%
<b>Other</b>			
Solvent Make-Up Costs Due to Degradation	\$2MM	\$1MM	+100%

# Preliminary Energy Performance Analysis for an Updated Process Configuration

	BiCAP*	DOE Case 12 (MEA)	DOE Case B12B (Cansolv)
<b>Net Generating Capacity, MWe</b>	<b>550</b>	<b>550</b>	<b>550</b>
<b>Gross Generating Capacity, MWe</b>	<b>700</b>	<b>802</b>	<b>728</b>
<b>Amount of CO<sub>2</sub> captured, tonne/hr</b>	<b>478</b>	<b>548</b>	<b>480</b>
<b>Total Steam Derate, MWe</b>	<b>71.1</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>86</b>
Reboiler/Flash Heat Duty, MWth	278	542	331
Thermal to Electric Energy, %	25.6	25.6	25.8
<b>Direct Electrical Derate, MWe</b>	<b>44.8</b>	<b>75.2</b>	<b>51.7</b>
Compression Duty, MWe	31.5	44.9	35.7
Other (Pumps, Fans, etc.), MWe	13.3	30.3	16.0
<b>Total Derate for CO<sub>2</sub> Capture, MWe</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>214</b>	<b>137</b>
<b>Total parasitic use for entire plant, MWe</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>252</b>	<b>178</b>

\* Updated BiCAP case (Cold rich feed bypass the heat exchanger)

- ❑ Parasitic power use: 16.6% for BiCAP, 25.4% for MEA, 18.8% for Cansolv
- ❑ Total derate for BiCAP is 43%< MEA, 15%<Cansolv

# Risks and Mitigation Strategies

Description of Risk	Risk Mitigation and Response Strategies
New stripping process configuration is unable to achieve the energy use target (reboiler heat duty <2,100 kJ/kg of CO <sub>2</sub> captured)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Stripping configuration will be modified / improved (e.g., by optimizing locations of solvent feeds, etc.)</li> <li>2) Solvent formula will be revisited (e.g., tradeoff between energy-related and operation/cost-related solvent properties)</li> <li>3) Operating conditions will be optimized (e.g., temperature, CO<sub>2</sub> rich/lean loadings, etc.)</li> </ol>
Performance of multiple stages of the absorption and phase separation configuration is less favorable than expected for higher viscosity solvents, and the operation is complex	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) One stage of CO<sub>2</sub> absorption and phase separation configuration will be considered and its performance assessed;</li> <li>2) Issues related to operational complexity will be analyzed, and the most complicated and expensive units and equipment will be identified</li> </ol>
Solvent management issues arise, such as emission loss, corrosion, handling, and supply	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Solvent volatile emissions will be assessed in lab to provide inputs for design of a water wash unit in absorber;</li> <li>2) Our previous corrosion study will guide equipment material selections;</li> <li>3) Reclamation of thermal and oxidative degradation products to mitigate their corrosion effects will be investigated;</li> <li>4) UIUC Division of Research Safety, power plant, and solvent suppliers will be consulted on solvent safe use and handling;</li> <li>5) Multiple vendors will be contacted to confirm solvent supply</li> </ol>
Economics (CAPEX and OPEX) of technology is less favorable than expected	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Issues related to high CAPEX and OPEX will be assessed;</li> <li>2) The most complicated and expensive subunits &amp; equipment will be identified and alternatives investigated;</li> <li>3) Process configuration and solvent formulation will be re-assessed to identify potential solutions to reduce costs</li> </ol>

# Cont'd

Description of Risk	Risk Mitigation and Response Strategies
<p>Flue gas and utilities are unavailable from the host power plant for 2-week testing in BP3</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Obtain the commitment letter from Abbott power plant in BP1 (2 years before the testing);</li> <li>2) Close and early coordination with Abbott power plant to schedule the testing time and ensure continuous plant operation for 2 weeks;</li> <li>3) Supply of most utilities (electricity, steam, water, cooling, waste disposal, etc.) will be built in the bench skid and self-supported</li> </ol>
<p>Project cost (bench-scale equipment cost) has overruns</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Project scope will be clearly defined with suppliers and change orders limited;</li> <li>2) A fixed-price basis will be adopted to avoid suppliers that bid low and escalate costs over time;</li> <li>3. Size of the bench unit will be reduced</li> </ol>
<p>Bench-scale equipment procurement bidding process is delayed</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Close coordination with UIUC Purchasing Division early on to ensure that procurement bidding process starts timely and is completed efficiently;</li> <li>2) Equipment design and specs will be made available to UIUC Purchasing Division as early as possible to prepare bidding documentation</li> </ol>
<p>Fabrication of bench-scale equipment is delayed</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) A reputable supplier will be chosen and firm commitments made during purchase order;</li> <li>2) Close communications and oversight will be maintained, and issues will be resolved as they occur during the fabrication</li> </ol>

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**Technical Background**

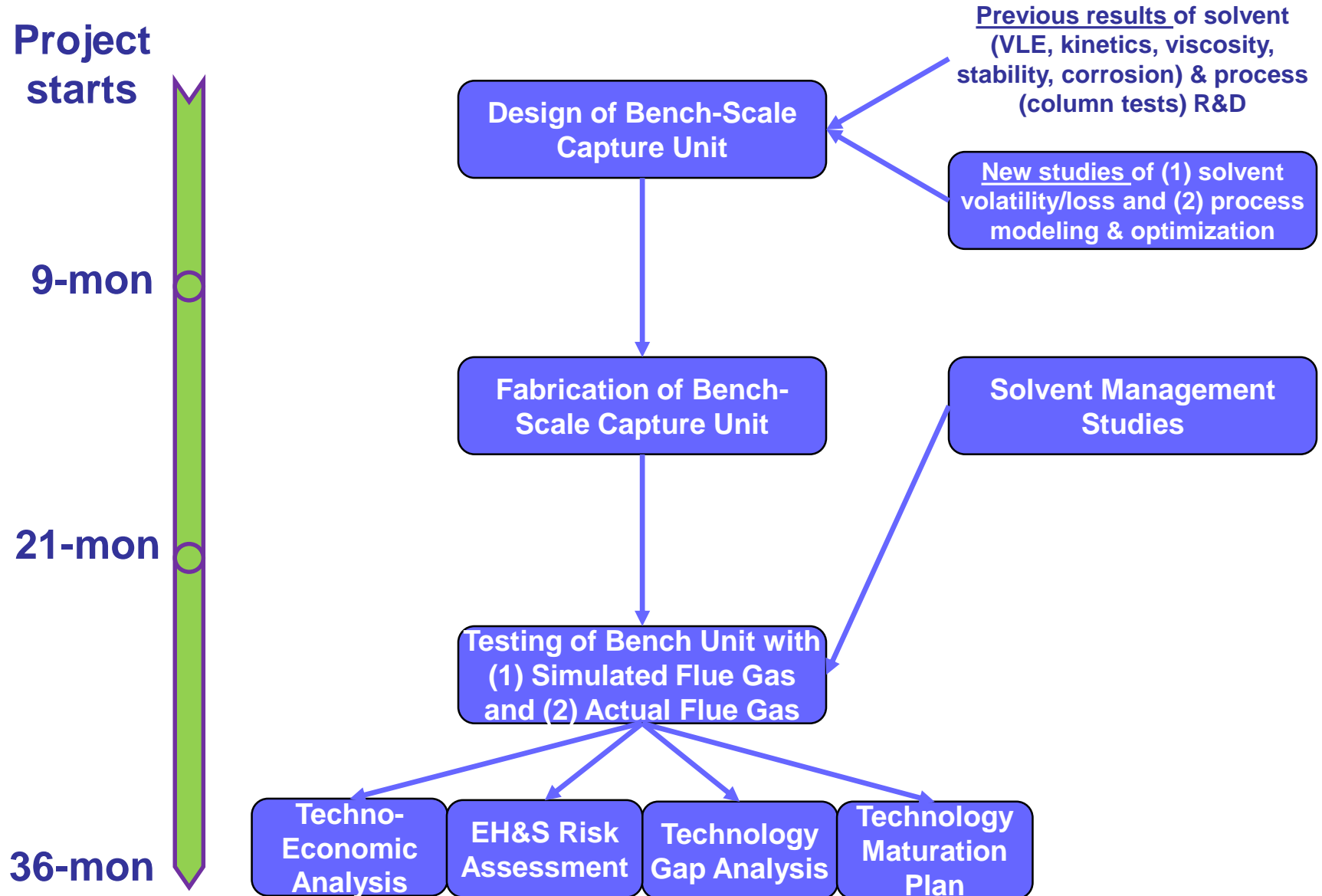
**Project Task Flow and Organization**

**Scope of Work and Approaches**

**Project Timeline and Milestones**

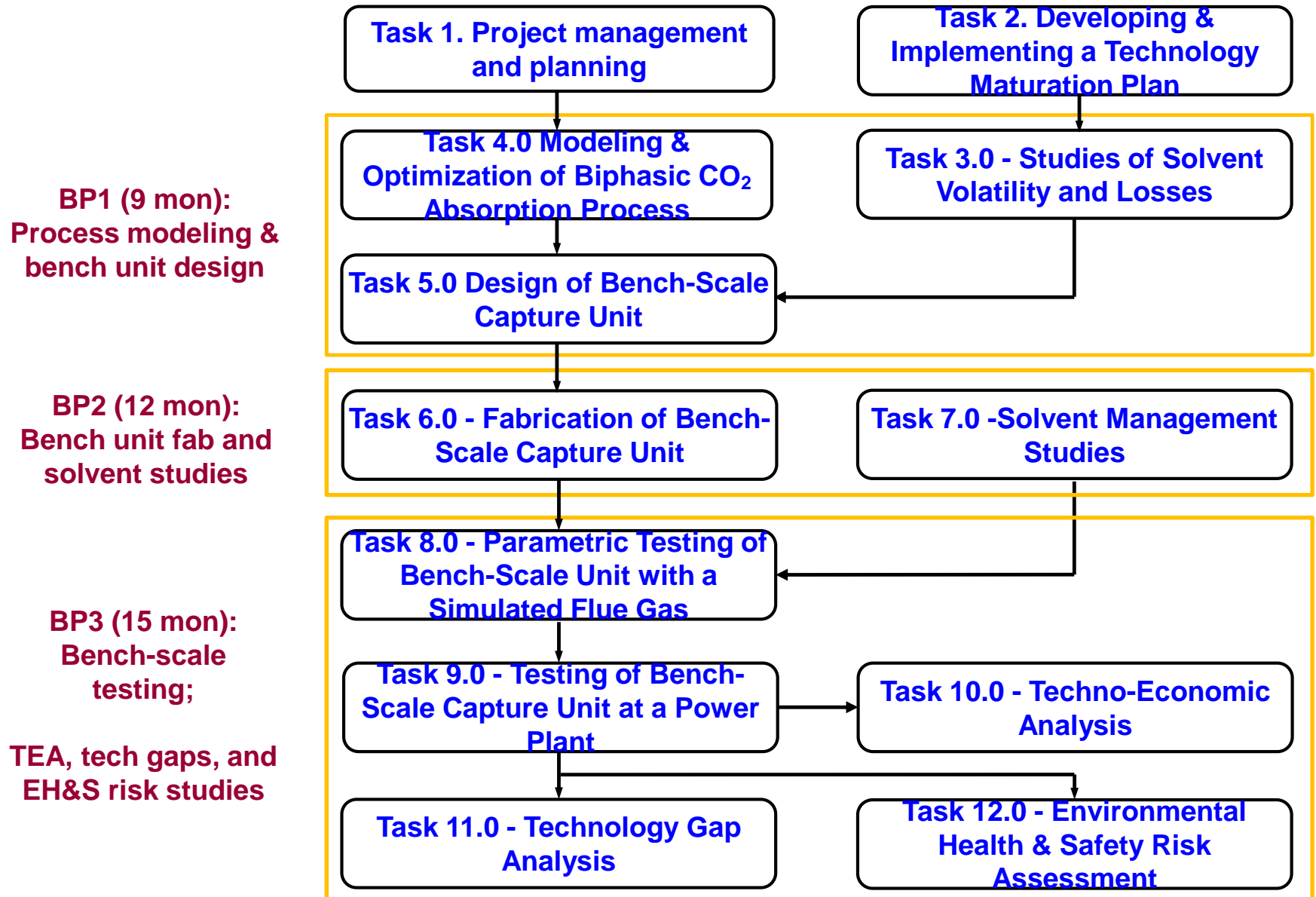
**Plan for Future Scale-Up /Development**

# Decision Tree of Technical Work

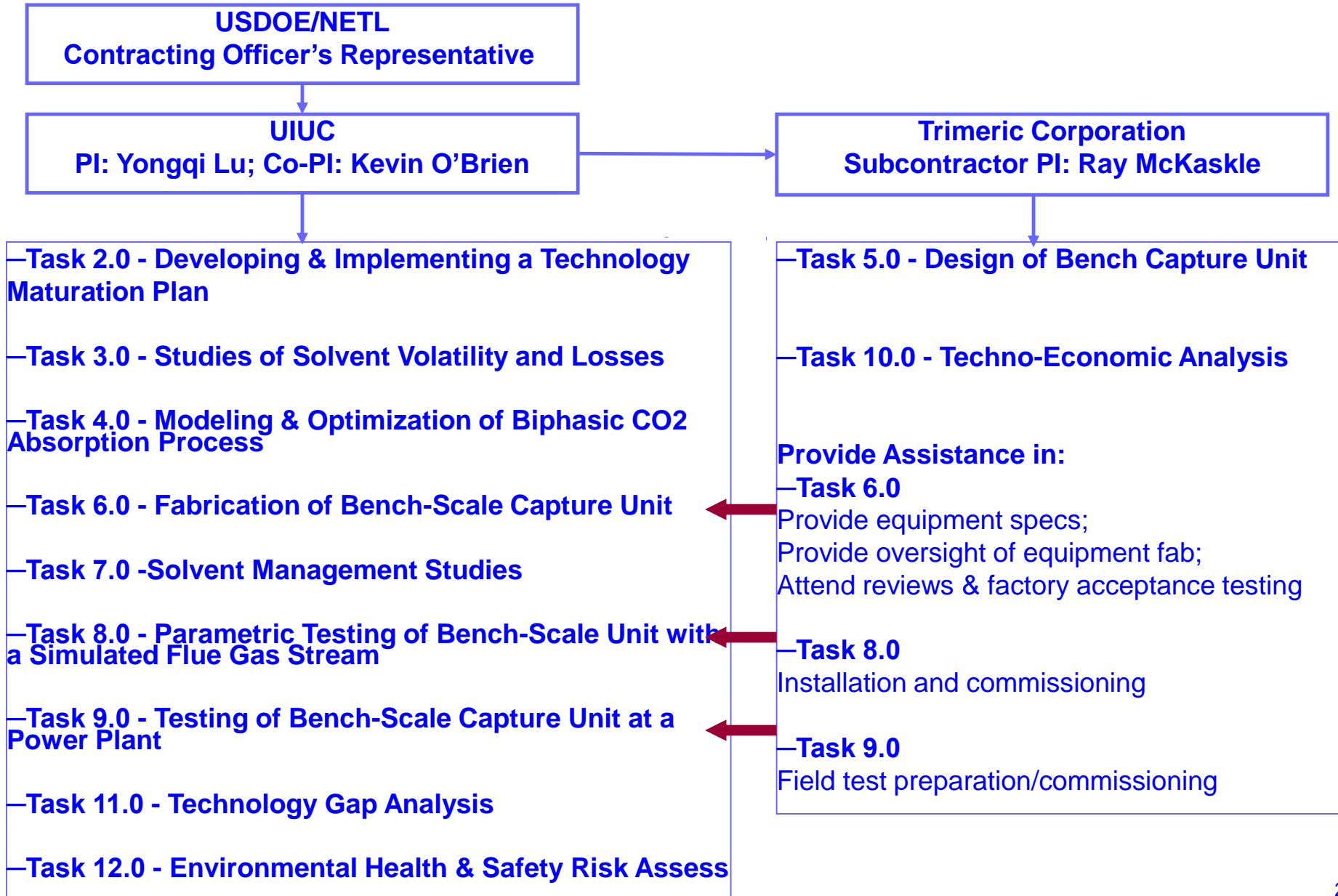




# Project Task Logic Flow



# Project Task Logic Flow



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**Technical Background**

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## Task 2. Developing & Implementing a Technology Maturation Plan (TMP)

- ❑ Initial TMP within 90 days of award; updated at significant milestones/ project transition
  
- ❑ TMP contents
  - Current TRL and target applications
  - For proposed work:
    - Performance attributes and their requirements;
    - Performance attributes to be tested;
    - Work needed to meet requirements;
    - Anticipated TRL
  - Post-project plans attain next TRL

# BP1: Task 3. Studies of Solvent Volatility & Losses

## ☐ Solvent volatility measurement

- Organic vapors of individual components at absorption conditions measured by FTIR using an existing VLE cell

## ☐ Testing of solvent emission and mitigation

- Solvent losses (vapor & aerosols) tested in an existing lab column with a water wash section added downstream
- 2-3 trays and/or packings to be evaluated (e.g., water flow, temperature, inlet  $\text{SO}_3$  concentration, etc.)
- Vapor analyzed by FTIR and aerosols collected by membrane filters and analyzed by TOC, etc.

## Task 4. Modeling and Optimization of Biphasic CO<sub>2</sub> Absorption Process

- ❑ Process modeling to identify optimal configuration
  - Use a rigorous Aspen Plus® model developed from our previous work
  - Based on solvent data from our previous work
- ❑ Bench-scale process simulations to provide mass & energy balance information for 40 kWe unit design

# Task 5. Design of Bench-Scale Capture Unit

- ❑ Design of 40 kWe bench-scale capture unit (skid-mounted)
  - Design basis from Task 4
  - An equipment list (including gas polishing and utilities supply) developed and sized/selected
  - (Utilities not from power plant host site but self-supported)
  
- ❑ Design review and approval
  
- ❑ Conduct a preliminary hazards and operability (HAZOP) analysis for the bench-scale unit design

## **BP2: Task 6. Fab of 40 kWe Bench-Scale Capture Unit**

- ❑ Bidding solicitation & selection of a manufacturing vendor
  - Bid specs prepared
  - RFP/solicitation
  - Assessment of bids and vendor selection
  
- ❑ Fabrication of skid-mounted capture unit
  - Oversight for equipment fabrication to ensure that the schedule and design requirements are met
  - Safety reviews and factory-acceptance testing at the vendor's facility



# Task 7. Solvent Management Studies

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- ❑ Solvent degradation and reclamation studies
  - Ion exchange and adsorption tested to reclaim solvents
  - Commercial and ISGS materials to be evaluated
  
- ❑ Develop in-situ measurement of CO<sub>2</sub> loading
  - Develop correlations between CO<sub>2</sub> loading and an easy-to-measure property (e.g., density)

# **BP3: Task 8. Parametric Testing of Bench-Scale Unit with a Simulated Flue Gas Stream**

## Installation and commissioning

- Installation in a lab
- Operating procedures, test plans and safety plans developed
- Troubleshooting and commissioning tests

## Parametric Testing

- Parametric Testing for 2 selected solvents
- Scheduled for a total of 6 months

# Task 9. Testing of Bench-Scale Capture Unit at a Power Plant

- ❑ Field test preparation
  - Field-test plan prepared
  - Safety plans and training prepared
  - Skid installed and commissioned
  
- ❑ Bench-scale testing with Abbott flue gas
  - One biphasic solvent selected from Task 8
  - Capture performance tested for 2 weeks
  - Liquid samples collected for degradation analysis
  - Corrosion effects on coupons evaluated
  - Monitoring of amine emissions

# Task 10. Techno-Economic Analysis

- ❑ Process analysis and updating of mass & energy balances
  - Identify potential process improvement or optimization opportunities
  - Mass & energy balance info updated/scaled to 550 MWe (net)
  
- ❑ Techno-Economic Analysis
  - Major equipment selected and sized
  - CAPEX and OPEX updated (from the lab-scale project)
  - Economic metrics (e.g., COE, capture cost) estimated
  - Sensitivity analysis with key technical and cost variables

# Task 11. Technology Gap Analysis

- ❑ Review of the process and summary of the potential advantages (e.g., performance, cost, emissions, market, safety metrics)
- ❑ Summary of current R&D level on key components or subunits; Info & testing required for scale-up/commercialization
- ❑ Summary table of R&D gaps as focus of future R&D efforts or being investigated thru other programs
- ❑ Potential vendors and specs identified for commercially-available equipment items

## Task 12. Environmental, Health & Safety Risk Assessment

- ❑ Substances of air, water and solid wastes identified and their magnitude estimated
- ❑ Literature search of toxicological effects, human health effects, and eco-toxicity of the substances
- ❑ Properties (volatility, flammability, explosivity, other chemical reactivity, & corrosivity) collected from literature or if necessary, measurements
- ❑ Compliance and regulatory implications of the technology with reference to US EH&S laws and standards
- ❑ Engineering analysis for eliminating or minimizing use of hazardous materials and possible controls/mitigation options
- ❑ Precautions for safe handling and conditions for safe storage; Waste treatment and offsite disposal options examined

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Technical Background

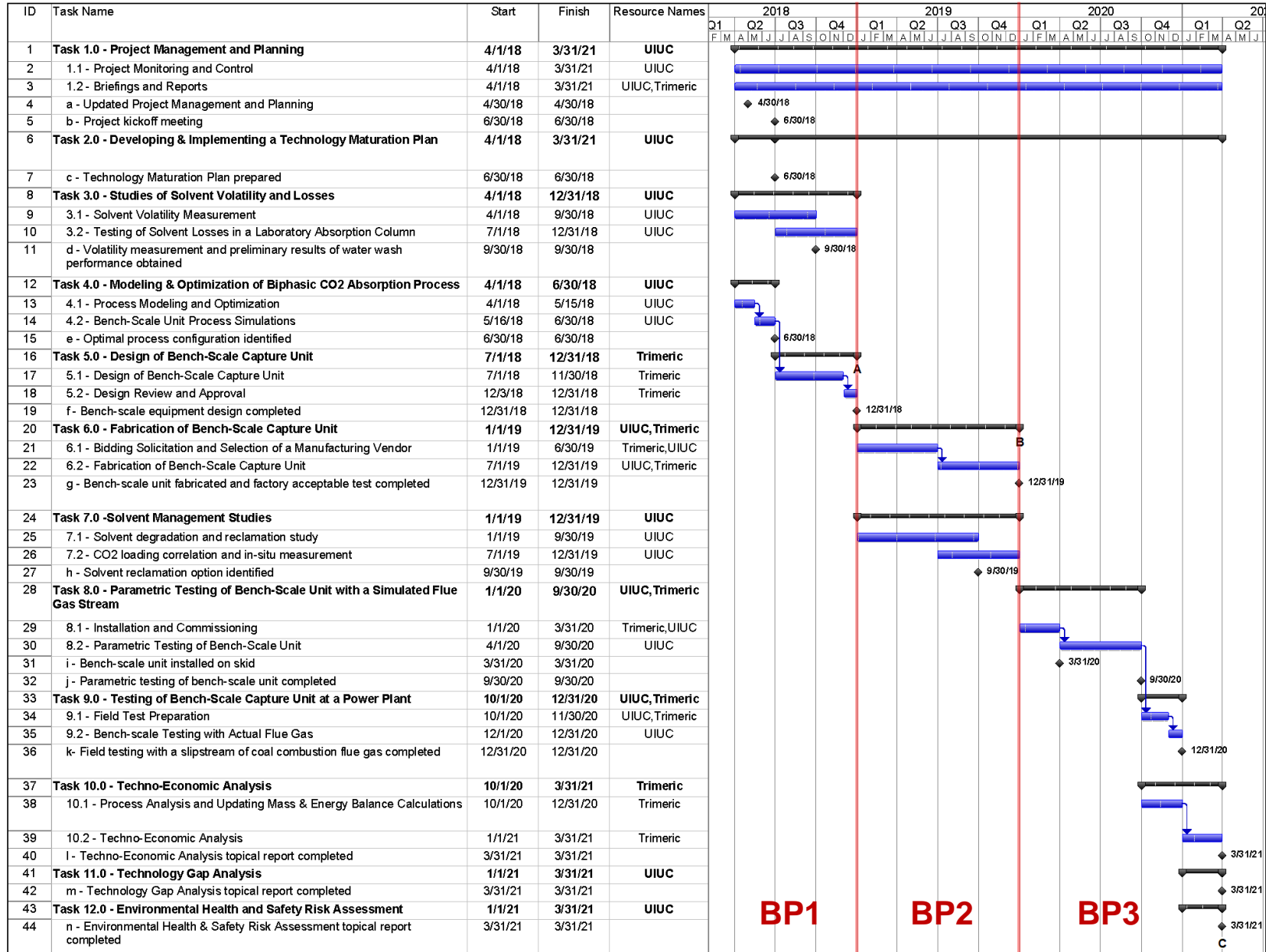
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# Schedule and Milestones (36-mon, 4/6/18-4/5/21)





# Project Milestone Log (BP1)

ID	Task	Milestone Description	Planned Completion	Verification Method
a	1	Updated Project Management Plan (PMP) submitted	4/30/18	PMP file
b	1	Project kickoff meeting convened	6/30/18	Presentation file
c	2	Technology Maturation Plan (TMP) submitted	6/30/18	TMP file
d	3	Volatility measurements and preliminary results of water wash performance obtained	9/30/18	Results reported in QR report
e	4	Optimal process configuration identified	9/30/18	Results reported in QR report
f	5	Bench-scale equipment design completed	12/31/18	Results reported in QR report
g	5	Host Site Agreement obtained	12/31/18	Host Site Agreement submitted to DOE

## Cont'd (BP2)

ID	Task	Milestone Description	Planned Completion	Verification Method
h	6	h. Bench-scale unit fabricated and factory-acceptable test completed	12/31/19	Description and photographs provided in QR report
i	7	i. Solvent reclamation options identified	9/30/19	Results reported in QR report

## Cont'd (BP3)

ID	Task	Milestone Description	Planned Completion	Verification Method
j	8.1	Bench-scale unit installed	3/31/20	Description & photographs provided in QR report
k	8.2	Parametric testing with simulated flue gas in lab completed	9/30/20	Results reported in QR report
l	9	Field test plan prepared	11/30/20	Field test plan reported in QR report
m	9	Field testing with a slipstream of actual flue gas completed	12/31/20	Results reported in QR report
n	10	TEA topical report completed	3/31/21	Results reported in QR report and a topical report
o	10	State-Point Data Table updated	3/31/21	Updated State-Point Data Table in QR report
p	11	Technology Gap Analysis topical report completed	3/31/21	Results reported in QR report and a topical report
q	12	EH&S Risk Assessment topical report completed	3/31/21	Results reported in QR report and a topical report

# Success Criteria

Decision Point	Basis for Decision/Success Criteria
Completion of Budget Period 1	Development and submission of a TMP
	Completion of solvent volatility measurements and a preliminary assessment of water wash options and performance
	<b>Host site agreement finalized</b>
	<b>Completion of 40 kWe bench unit design, with design calculations meeting performance targets (e.g., heat duty &lt;2,100 GJ/tonne of CO<sub>2</sub> and stripping P &gt;4 bar)</b>
Completion of Budget Period 2	Completion of solvent reclamation tests and identification of options suitable for reclamation of biphasic solvents
	<b>Fabrication of 40 kWe bench-scale skid and factory-acceptance test passed on schedule</b>
Completion of Budget Period 3	<b>Completion of bench-scale testing, including parametric testing with a simulated flue gas and slipstream testing of actual flue gas at Abbott;</b> Results showing total energy use of $\leq 0.22$ kWh/kg (including estimated compression work) that indicate significant progress toward achieving the DOE's Transformational Capture goals
	Submission of (1) an updated State-Point Data Table; (2) a TEA topical report; (3) a Technology Gap Analysis topical report; and (4) an EH&S Risk Assessment topical report

# Project Deliverables

Task	Deliverable Title	Anticipated Delivery Date
1.0	Project Management Plan	Update due 30 days after award; Revisions submitted as requested
2.0	Technology Maturation Plan	Due 90 days after award; Revisions submitted as requested
5.0	Host Site Agreement	Delivery prior to BP2
9.0	Test Plan	Delivery prior to initiation of Task 9.2
10.0	State Point Data Table	Delivery 1 mon after completion of Task 10
10.0	Techno-Economic Analysis	Delivery 1 mon after completion of Task 10
11.0	Technology Gap Analysis	Delivery 1 mon after completion of Task 11
12.0	EH&S Risk Assessment	Delivery 1 mon after completion of Task 12
	Final Technical Report	Delivery 3 mon within completion of the project

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**Technical Background**

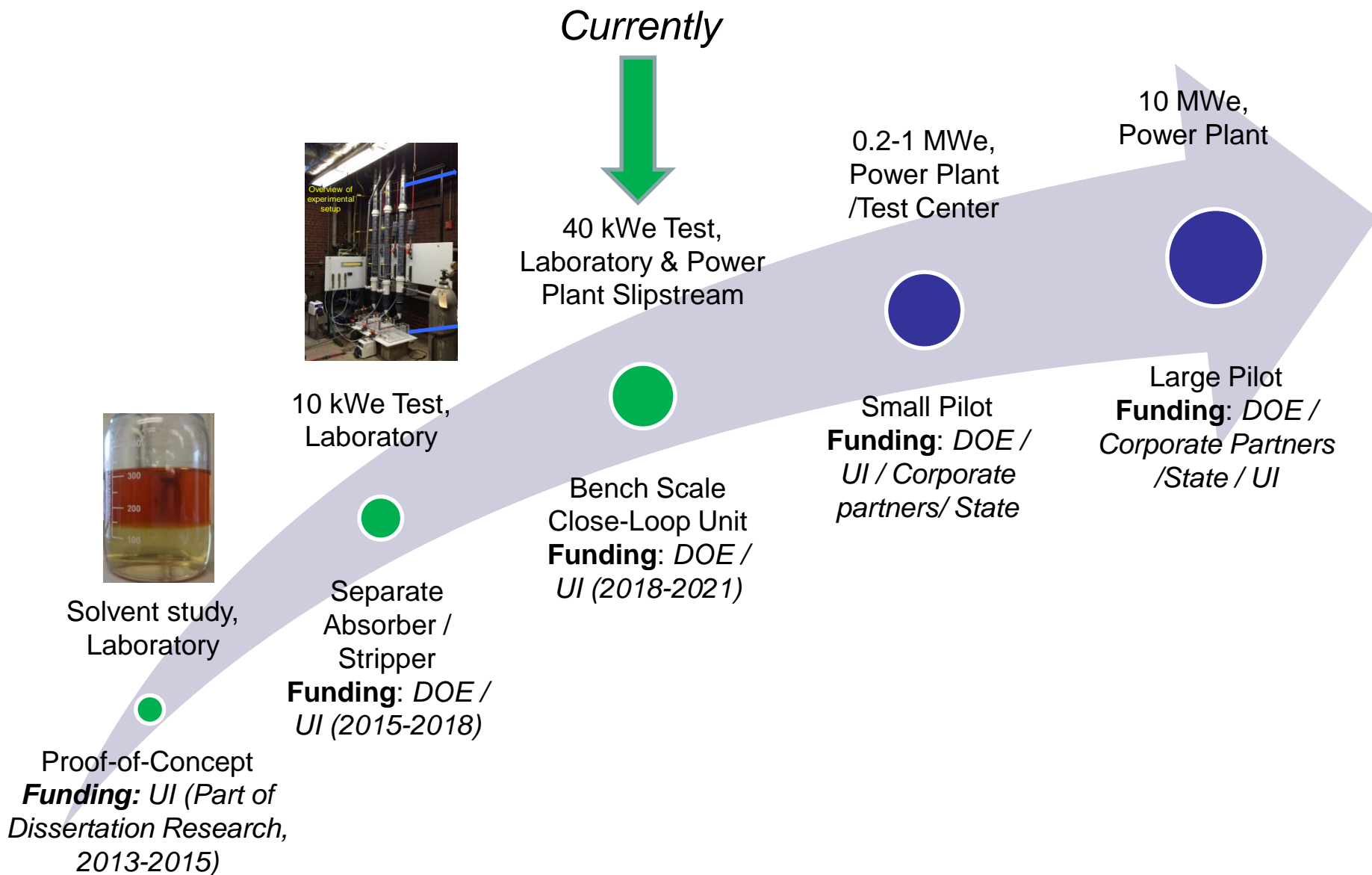
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# Progression of Technology Development



# Acknowledgments

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- ❑ Funding Support by USDOE/NETL through Cooperative Agreement No. DE-FE0031600
- ❑ DOE/NETL Project Manager: Andrew Jones
- ❑ DOE/NETL Contract Specialist: Bethan Young



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# Thank you!

## Contact Information:

Yongqi Lu (Project PI)

Illinois State Geological Survey

Tel: 217-244-4985

Email: [yongqilu@Illinois.edu](mailto:yongqilu@Illinois.edu)