



**CSLF-T-2008-09**  
**16 October 2008**

**TECHNICAL GROUP**

**DISCUSSION PAPER ON THE SURVEY RESULTS FROM THE  
CSLF PROJECT RECOGNITION SURVEY  
MARCH-MAY 2008**

Barbara N. McKee  
Tel: 1 301 903 3820  
Fax: 1 301 903 1591  
*CSLFSecretariat@hq.doe.gov*



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*Note by the Secretariat*

Background

The CSLF Technical Group, at its January 2008 meeting in Saudi Arabia, requested that the CSLF Secretariat, with the assistance of the CSLF Project Interaction and Review Team (PIRT), develop a brief questionnaire on the value of CSLF project recognition and conduct a survey of stakeholders and project sponsors. A series of questions seeking to quantify the value of CSLF project recognition were sent to CSLF stakeholders and project sponsors in March 2008. The initial results of this survey were provided to the PIRT at its meeting in Cape Town, South Africa, on April 13, 2008. Due to the relatively low response rate, the PIRT requested the CSLF Secretariat to reissue the questionnaire to project sponsors who had not previously responded. This paper is a summary of the responses received from these questionnaires.

Action Requested

The Technical Group is requested to review and consider the Discussion Paper presented by the CSLF Secretariat.

Conclusions

The Technical Group is invited to note in the Minutes of its next meeting that:

“The Technical Group reviewed and considered the Discussion Paper presented by the CSLF Secretariat.”

**Discussion Paper on the Survey Results from the  
CSLF Project Recognition Survey  
March-May 2008**

**Introduction**

The CSLF Technical Group, at its January 2008 meeting in Al Khobar, Saudi Arabia, requested that the CSLF Secretariat, with the assistance of the CSLF Project Interaction and Review Team (PIRT), develop a brief questionnaire on the value of CSLF project recognition and conduct a survey of stakeholders and project sponsors. The purpose of this survey was to better understand how stakeholders and project sponsors perceive the value of CSLF project recognition of a project and obtain a viewpoint on what the CSLF might do to increase the significance of such recognition. The Secretariat developed a series of questions which were approved by the PIRT Chair. These questions were sent to CSLF stakeholders and project sponsors in March 2008.

The results of this survey were relayed to the PIRT at its meeting in Cape Town, South Africa, on April 13, 2008. Due to the relatively low response rate, the PIRT requested the CSLF Secretariat to issue another call for responses from project sponsors in an effort to collect additional information. Requests were e-mailed in early May 2008. The additional responses that were received, along with the initial results, are summarized in this discussion paper. The names of projects and people have been removed from the responses to maintain the anonymity of the respondents. A full listing of all responses received is provided as Attachments A and B.

**Survey Details**

E-mails were sent to all CSLF stakeholders and all project sponsors of CSLF-recognized projects on March 5, 2008. Project sponsors who didn't respond to the March e-mail were e-mailed the questions again on May 5, 2008. Participation was voluntary.

CSLF stakeholders were asked the following questions:

1. Has your organization ever considered submitting a project to the CSLF for recognition?
2. What can the CSLF do to encourage project sponsors to apply for CSLF recognition?
3. What are the reasons for not seeking CSLF recognition?
4. Is your organization presently a sponsor of any of the 19 CSLF-recognized projects?

Project sponsors were asked the following questions:

1. What do you see as the value of CSLF recognition to a project sponsor?
2. What can be done to make CSLF recognition more attractive for project sponsors?

## Key Findings

### Stakeholders

*Has your organization ever considered submitting a project to the CSLF for recognition?*

Out of 11 responses, seven stakeholders replied that they had considered seeking CSLF project recognition; two others wrote that they intend to do so after funding decisions had been finalized, and two had never considered applying.

*What can the CSLF do to encourage project sponsors to apply for CSLF recognition?*

Stakeholders provided a wide of range of suggestions for how the CSLF can try to increase the attractiveness of project recognition. Some stakeholders saw communications as an area that could be improved, such as through more frequent updates of project information available from the CSLF website. One respondent thought the CSLF could better promote itself, more effectively tout the benefits of involvement in the CSLF, and more fully clarify the value of CSLF project recognition. Two respondents mentioned funding. The first instance involved funding to enable projects to work together to develop policy frameworks that would facilitate large-scale CCS projects. The second instance called for members from developed countries to establish a fund to assist projects in the developing world. Respondents voiced support for efforts to increase collaboration between project partners as well as international research exchanges. It was suggested that the CSLF broaden its project focus beyond conventional CCS projects. One stakeholder said they would like to see the CSLF take a more active role in CCS policy formulation which would have the affect of heightening the prestige of policy recognition.

*What are the reasons for not seeking CSLF recognition?*

The most common reasons provided by stakeholders for why they are not seeking CSLF recognition is that they do not see clear benefits in doing so. A few respondents did not see any incentive in going through the recognition process, since project partners prefer to keep their project details proprietary and do not see recognition as an effective way to attract additional partners and collaboration opportunities. One stakeholder informed us that the CSLF needs to become more relevant by influencing the development of projects. Another common area of responses was that additional administrative burden is placed on project sponsors. Stakeholders measured this additional burden in cost, time, and resources while the payoff was seen as hard to visualize.

*Is your organization presently a sponsor of any of the 19 CSLF-recognized projects?*

*[Note: there are now 20 CSLF recognized projects.]*

Seven of the 11 respondents replied that they were project sponsors and four replied that they had no project involvement.

## Project Sponsors

*What do you see as the value of CSLF recognition to a project sponsor?*

The most commonly reported value from CSLF project recognition was prestige or international exposure. Related to this is the view that CSLF recognition gives a project greater credibility. Another important consideration was the impact CSLF recognition has on a project's ability to attract funding. Project sponsors also saw CSLF recognition as a vehicle for creating opportunities to attract research partners and as a springboard for international collaboration. Another benefit is that it enables a project to be better informed on current events within the carbon capture and storage (CCS) community.

*What can be done to make CSLF recognition more attractive for project sponsors?*

Project sponsors provided various suggestions for improving the attractiveness of CSLF recognition. Many would like the CSLF to increase its administrative and financial support to projects. This would entail funding the travel expenses of projects sponsors and assuming more information collection and reporting functions as a means of facilitating greater communications without placing additional burdens on project sponsors.

Project sponsors would like to see increased visibility and greater promotion of CSLF projects. Increasing the prestige of CSLF recognition was seen as important. One way to do this would be to revise the evaluation criteria for project recognition to make it more difficult to achieve. In that light, when a project receives CSLF recognition it would be seen as a significant accomplishment.

Respondents would also like to see enhanced communications and higher levels of collaboration within the CSLF, both between the CSLF and projects, and between projects. This includes better access to information. Sponsors would like the CSLF to provide meetings for the CSLF recognized projects to get together and share information and discuss collaboration opportunities. Respondents would like to see more changes for project sponsors to work together. Sponsors also want more occasions for project sponsors to be involved in CSLF meetings. One possibility would be to provide podcasts of CSLF meetings for the benefit of all those interested parties who are unable to travel.

**Attachment A**  
**CSLF Project Recognition Questionnaire Responses – Stakeholders**

**1. Has your organization ever considered submitting a project to the CSLF for recognition?**

- Yes (7)
- Intend to, after funding decisions are made (2)
- No (2)

*Count: 11 responses*

**2. What can the CSLF do to encourage project sponsors to apply for CSLF recognition?**

- Use the CSLF R&D projects to coordinate the development of policy and regulatory frameworks to enable industrial-scale CCS projects.
- Provide funding, and use the CSLF R&D projects to coordinate the development of policy and regulatory frameworks to enable industrial-scale CCS projects.
- Ask energy industry CEOs and organizations like the API (American Petroleum Institute) to submit candidate projects for CSLF recognition.
- Have better communication about CSLF and what the benefits are of being CSLF-recognized.
- Most of the projects that do register, presumably do so to obtain recognition and to invite collaboration. That being so, more could be done to promote endorsed projects, to disseminate information on their progress, and to facilitate collaboration between project participants. A quick scan of the project presentation material on the CSLF website indicated that most was of 2005 vintage with evidently no updates posted for more than two years.
- Be far more effective on policy formulation so that the CSLF tag brings considerable prestige and political support.
- Make clear exactly the added value of such recognition.
- Provide cross linkage opportunities for sponsors, including international research exchange. Persuade developed countries to provide a moderate fund to assist with projects in the developing world, such that projects recognized by the CSLF can get some additional funds.
- We have not done so because we cannot see any benefit in doing so.
- Widen areas of interest, and do not restrict to “conventional” CO<sub>2</sub> capture & storage.

*Count: 10 responses*

### 3. What are the reasons for not seeking CSLF recognition?

- Additional burdens of cost, staff time, and resources that derive no visible benefit.
- Until now we were not aware of this opportunity.
- Not enough benefit for a company or organization, yet there is considerable administrative burden to the company.
- There is no real incentive for the nomination of commercial project proposals prior to their commitment. Proponents prefer to keep the details of their commercial plans confidential. For R&D projects, there is currently little apparent pay-off in terms of project promotion and collaboration, in view of the apparent CSLF inactivity. Neither is the limited CSLF role available to stakeholders, including the proponents of commercial projects, an incentive for them to seek CSLF endorsement of their projects.
- Perception that there are no material benefits of CSLF recognition.
- Would require extra time and effort, while added value is not crystal clear.
- People may not value CSLF. The CSLF must make itself relevant, i.e., influence the development of the project to encourage sponsors.
- CSLF seems to consider only conventional capture & storage of CO<sub>2</sub> in the form of CO<sub>2</sub>. Our interest is biological CO<sub>2</sub>-capture, followed by permanent sequestration in the form of porous elemental carbon, with additional soil fertility improvements (“terra preta nova”). Our approach to biological and terrestrial sequestration is beyond the scope of CSLF.

*Count: 8 responses*

### 4. Is your organization presently a sponsor of any of the 19 CSLF-recognized projects? [Note: the CSLF now has 20 recognized projects.]

- Yes (7)
- No (4)

*Count: 11 responses*

**Attachment B**  
**CSLF Project Recognition Questionnaire Responses – Sponsors**

**1. What do you see as the value of CSLF recognition to a project sponsor?**

- We greatly value the CSLF recognition of a project as it provides an opportunity for project sponsors to seek partnerships in a broader sense. This recognition puts the project in the forefront of many other projects and hence distinguishes it from the rest of the pack. As such, it brings with itself international recognition and extra weight to the project, while facilitating potential funding opportunities and collaborations.
- Prestige.
- Access to U.S. DOE co-funding
- It is not possible to attend meetings to give updates without funding. As such, there seems to be little value in having a CSLF endorsement. The projects have not received more recognition; they have not attracted additional partners as a result of a CSLF endorsement. There does not seem to be much indication that the outputs from the research projects are being used for policy development. As a university researcher, it is very difficult to obtain funding to attend CSLF meetings. Additionally, the lack of attendance precludes ongoing discussion regarding the value of the CSLF and the things that CSLF could be doing for the projects.
- The sponsors of our project are, of course, highly interested in following-up and supporting success of their proposal. Furthermore, through the periodical updates of the CSLF projects, the sponsors are also kept informed about the major complementary R&D activities on CCS around the globe.
- The value of CSLF recognition lies primarily in the added credibility that our project enjoys as a result of being recognized by an international body. We also see value in the increased exposure our project receives, which may result in increased opportunities for international collaboration.
- Value to date has been in using CSLF recognition to drive forward our involvement in other CCS projects. For example, some jurisdictions seem to have a preference for funding projects that involve other organizations with CSLF-recognized projects. To that extent, it helps open doors for future activities. The criteria that a project would have to go through to receive CSLF recognition is helpful – although as new, larger, and more complex projects are initiated, the CSLF criteria will also need to evolve.
- The value is primarily connected to the recognition this gives to the project with regards to quality and relevance to the topic of CCS. Recognition is like a brand.
- The value lies in the international exposure it receives and the overall contribution this makes to the credibility of CCS. In other words the value is somewhat intangible for the project. There is value to the CSLF Program of having

endorsed projects which provide tangible evidence of activity and a vehicle for international collaboration.

- CSLF reaches a wide audience and helps to inform and increase awareness of CCS issues and potential solutions. Information about the individual projects can reach a wide international audience through CSLF's contacts, programs, and events.
- Worldwide recognition of the validity of the project.

*Count: 11 responses*

## **2. What can be done to make CSLF recognition more attractive for project sponsors?**

- There might be an interest in putting in place multi-lateral agreements among member countries that facilitate the project collaborations under those agreements. Also, some measures to provide seed funding for initiating collaborative projects through CSLF recognition might be very useful. Inviting the project sponsors to make presentations on the progress of the projects, opportunities and technological advancements to the CSLF audience will be very helpful.
- Pay travel to present results at CSLF meetings.
- Use the CSLF R&D projects to coordinate the development of policy and regulatory frameworks to enable industrial-scale CCS projects.
- It would be useful if the CSLF could increase the profile of projects and encourage CSLF members to work cooperatively rather than develop competing projects. In other words, projects could become more international in scope, encouraging international collaboration. Most CSLF members will provide funding for projects within their national boundaries, but little, if anything, for international work. CSLF could look at its members trying to overcome some of these shortcomings. Providing funding for researchers to attend would help – there is little communication from the perspective of endorsed projects – there needs to be some way of the CSLF demonstrating its value through national members, or by providing better access to endorsed projects.
- There might be an interest in putting in place multi-lateral agreements among member countries that facilitate the project collaborations under those agreements. Also, some measures to provide seed funding for initiating collaborative projects through CSLF recognition might be very useful. Inviting the project sponsors to make presentations on the progress of the projects and on opportunities and technology advancements to the CSLF audience will be very helpful.
- The sponsors usually expect to benefit from their engagement in a CSLF project, either with regard to the progress in the legal issues of CCS (such as IOGCC recommendations for a CCS regular framework for the U.S., or the 2008/0015

- COD Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on the Geological Storage of Carbon Dioxide and Amending Council Directives), and/or in the scientific enhancement of CCS (such as the results of the EU FP 5, 6, 7, the U.S. Regional Carbon Sequestration Partnerships, the Stanford GCEP, the MIT Energy Initiative, the Australian CO2CRC, or the IEAGHG programmes). The CSLF can increase its attractiveness for project sponsors by establishing and supporting an International Scientific CCS Program as a kind of umbrella to all these activities.
- Any action that increases the prestige and/or visibility of the CSLF would make recognition more attractive. More rigorous standards for endorsement would also increase the prestige associated with being recognized. There are a large number of CCS projects that are under way or in the planning stages in the near future; this makes it more critical that rigorous standards are in place to ensure that only projects that are making unique and important contributions are recognized.
  - Need to continually adapt the criteria to position CSLF recognition as the “leading edge” of global CCS projects, so that recognition means more and others can truly learn from the projects. Perhaps there could be some additional role on the part of CSLF to help facilitate project communications. Right now, the reporting back to the CSLF on project status is relatively simple, but it would be preferable to have stronger external communication around the projects – but not at the expense of the project participants. Could CSLF dedicate some staff to assist proponents in reporting out in a more thorough manner?
  - Organize outreach activities under the auspices of the CSLF for the project portfolio and provide forums for exchange of experiences and results between the projects.
  - It would be unrealistic to expect the CSLF to provide funding for a project. In my view it would make it more attractive to go back to the original concept of truly “lighthouse” projects, where CO<sub>2</sub> is actually being captured and/or injected. In other words, set the bar higher so that endorsement is something to be sought keenly because it is so prestigious.
  - Providing the calendar of events and publication dates for information well in advance of the due date would be most helpful. Also a resource such as a website with such information would be a good backup. These may exist, but I have not been aware of this and I seem to receive emails with requests and short response times. Also, information about the many programs and projects with some depth to understand how these programs may link together in terms of the knowledge to be shared.
  - As the meetings are held around the world, it is difficult to attend many events. Use of podcasts in real time and/or with access to a delayed showing would be useful to those who are not able to attend events.
  - Publicizing CSLF projects and the companies sponsoring these projects along with their collaborators.

*Count: 13 responses*