



PRESS RELEASE

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Lyell Centre holds GeoEnergy Symposium

The Lyell Centre, a strategic partnership between the British Geological Survey (BGS) and Heriot-Watt University (HWU), has held its first GeoEnergy Symposium at the James Watt Centre on the University's campus this week.

The event, organised by Lyell Centre geoscientists Dr Sabine den Hartog, Professor Andreas Busch, Dr Margaret Stewart and Dr David Schofield, brought together representatives from industry, academia and government to discuss a broad spectrum of geoenery-related technologies and research, looking at both current and future opportunities.

Keynote speeches at the Symposium were given by guest speakers from Shell, the Oil and Gas Authority, Royal Holloway University and the United Downs Deep Geothermal Power Project.

Scientists from both BGS and Heriot-Watt shared with the delegates some of the current research and projects they are undertaking, including the UK Geoenery Observatory currently under construction in Glasgow.

Sabine den Hartog, Lyell Research Fellow (HWU), said: "The talks generated great discussion and debate among the delegates and the Symposium provided a valuable opportunity for members of the geoenery community to exchange information."

Dr David Schofield, Science Director, National Geoscience, BGS said: "We've been delighted to hold this GeoEnergy Symposium. It represents part of an ongoing process of developing collaborative research between Heriot-Watt University and the British Geological Survey, with the overall aim of carrying out transformative research which will underpin the transition to a low-carbon energy system."

"With speakers and delegates from the wider geoenery sphere also involved at the GeoEnergy Symposium, we've shared the current position and where we all might head, both individually and collaboratively, to improve the sustainability of our energy supply in the future."



From left to right: Dr David Schofield, British Geological Survey, and Professor Sebastian Geiger, Heriot-Watt University kick off the Symposium.



Delegates at the Lyell Centre GeoEnergy Symposium in discussion.

Ends



Notes for Editors:

The Lyell Centre

The Lyell Centre is a strategic partnership between Heriot-Watt University and the BGS, funded by the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC), the Scottish Funding Council and Heriot-Watt University. The partnership enables them to work together combining their expertise in geoscience. Exploring themes ranging from geology and geophysics to marine ecosystems, the centre's combination of pure and applied expertise employs innovative methods and technologies to society's most important environmental science and energy challenges.

The British Geological Survey

The British Geological Survey (BGS), a component body of the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC), is the nation's principal supplier of objective, impartial and up-to-date geological expertise and information for decision making for governmental, commercial and individual users. The BGS maintains and develops the nation's understanding of its geology to improve policy making, enhance national wealth and reduce risk. It also collaborates with the national and international scientific community in carrying out research in strategic areas, including energy and natural resources, our vulnerability to environmental change and hazards, and our general knowledge of the Earth system.

More about the BGS can be found at www.bgs.ac.uk

Heriot-Watt University

Heriot-Watt is a specialist, pioneering University, with a global presence, world renowned, innovative research and highly employable graduates. www.hw.ac.uk

The UK Geoenergy Observatories

The UK Geoenergy Observatories will establish new centres for research into the subsurface environment and provide opportunities to research how natural processes can control resource availability, and how natural resources can be used responsibly for present and future generations. The knowledge they generate will contribute to an understanding of new low-carbon energy technologies both in the UK and internationally. The capital project is the Natural Environment Research Council's (NERC) response to the British government's announcement in the 2014 Autumn Statement that it would create world-class subsurface energy research test centres through NERC, operated by the British Geological Survey.

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