

BOULDER COUNTY BUSINESS REPORT

BCBR Article

Ion building carbon-capture unit

By Michael Davidson

September 30, 2010 --

BOULDER - Ion Engineering LLC soon will begin testing its carbon-capture technology at the Valmont Power Plant in collaboration with Xcel Energy and other industry leaders, a representative of the company said Wednesday at a CleanTech Boulder meeting.

Ion Engineering, a Boulder-based company that focuses on capturing carbon dioxide and other gases released by power plants and natural-gas producers, in July received a grant of nearly \$3 million from the U.S. Department of Energy to design, build and conduct a field test for a carbon dioxide-capture unit to process flue gas from Xcel Energy's coal-fired power station in Boulder.

The company will build a truck-size unit that will use ionic liquids, which essentially are molten salts, to separate hazardous gases from the plant's emissions, said Linda Olsson, senior director of marketing, competitive intelligence and project management.

The company believes the process will prove cheaper and more energy efficient than current carbon-capture technology, which relies on water and can corrode power plant equipment.

Ion also will partner with the Electric Power Research Institute, the University of Alabama, Boulder-based Eltron Research and Development Inc., Evonik Goldschmidt and WorleyParsons Group on the project.