

# Energy Transition Dialogues

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#### CCS Uptake Rising to Meet Short-term Goals

The global increase in demand for carbon, capture and storage (CCS) has been remarkable over the past few years, with projects and investments steadily growing since 2017. A total of 172 commercial CCS facilities are in various stages of development, compared to a count of 135 six months ago, and 29 of them are in operation. Developing a CCS facility may take a minimum of two years in theory, or it can take as long as eight, depending on the existing infrastructure in place. But often, the infrastructure already exists, and so increases the investment appetite.

#### Blue Hydrogen Can Scale Quickly, Grow Exponentially in the Middle East

Blue hydrogen in this region has significant advantages in terms of scale. Facilities today that operate with CCS on the side, have a capacity of between 200 to 1,300 tons of hydrogen per day. We see more of those larger plants operating in the future. Saudi Arabia has all the ingredients necessary to be a major supplier of clean hydrogen, both blue and green, which is good news for the climate because they have lots of very low-cost hydrocarbons. It has a strategic imperative to decarbonize its products and it makes good business sense to invest in blue hydrogen production, which can be scaled up quite naturally, and has very familiar technology. We are now seeing a rush to gain market share; the clean hydrogen market is going to be enormous. Countries like Japan, for example, are actively looking for reliable supplies of relatively low emissions hydrogen products such as ammonia. ■

*\*Paraphrased Comments*

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