

July 7, 2026

Metropolitan CCS, LTD.
INPEX CORPORATION
Kanto Natural Gas Development Co., Ltd.

**Metropolitan CCS Commences Drilling Operations for CCS Appraisal Well off
Kujukuri, Chiba Prefecture, Japan**

Metropolitan CCS, LTD. (Metropolitan CCS), a joint venture between INPEX CORPORATION and Kanto Natural Gas Development Co., Ltd., announced today it has commenced drilling operations for the Kujukuri-Oki J-1 well, the Metropolitan Area CCS Project's first appraisal well offshore Kujukuri town, Chiba Prefecture.

Metropolitan CCS obtained approval¹ for appraisal drilling in the relevant offshore area from the Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry in April 2026, and has since undertaken various activities in preparation for drilling. The drilling of Kujukuri Offshore J-1 began on July 6.

Kujukuri-Oki J-1 is located approximately five kilometers offshore Kujukuri town, Chiba Prefecture and will serve to confirm the presence of geological formations suitable for CO₂ storage. In due course, Metropolitan CCS plans to conduct detailed analysis and evaluation, incorporating geological data to also be obtained from a second appraisal well (Kujukuri-Oki J-2) to assess the capacity of the area for the safe and long-term underground storage of CO₂.

Metropolitan CCS opened the "Umi to Mirai - CCS Communication Center" in Kujukuri Town, Chiba Prefecture, in June 2026. The center provides easy-to-understand information on CCS technologies and the Metropolitan CCS project, and serves as a venue for two-way communication with local communities.

The Metropolitan Area CCS Project is a CCS initiative that involves capturing CO₂ emitted from multiple industrial sources, including the Kimitsu Area of Nippon Steel Corporation's East Nippon Works and other industries in the Keiyo Industrial Complex, transporting the captured CO₂ via pipeline and storing it offshore Kujukuri. Metropolitan CCS is currently working toward the commencement of CO₂ storage by the early 2030s under the "Engineering Design Work for Advanced CCS Projects²" commissioned by the Japan Organization for Metals and Energy Security (JOGMEC).

Metropolitan CCS will proceed with drilling operations prioritizing safety while conducting studies and engineering work, with the understanding and cooperation of local fisheries and other community stakeholders as well as relevant local governments and organizations.

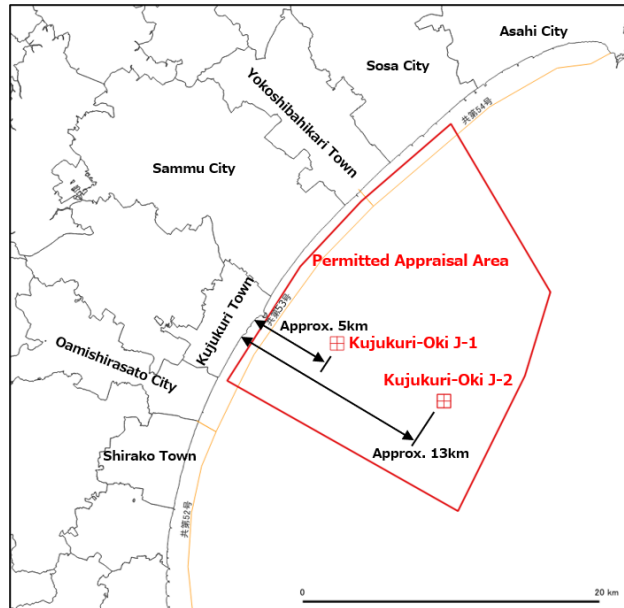
- ¹ Metropolitan CCS Joint Venture Granted Approval for CCS Exploration Drilling Off Pacific Coast of Chiba Prefecture, Japan
<https://mccs.inpex.co.jp/news/news12.php> (Japanese only)
<https://www.inpex.com/english/news/upload/20260415.pdf>
<https://www.gasukai.co.jp/news/filedownload.php?name=cb05c05012cd14e79fe9c57da3dd2e6b.pdf> (Japanese only)
- ² Initiative intended to support the dissemination and expansion of CCS projects, involving feasibility studies and the implementation of “Design Work within the CCS Value Chain,” which includes detailed engineering design related to CO₂ separation, capture, transportation and storage, as well as the “Evaluation of Storage Potential at Prospective CO₂ Storage Sites,” which includes exploratory drilling surveys.

Media contacts

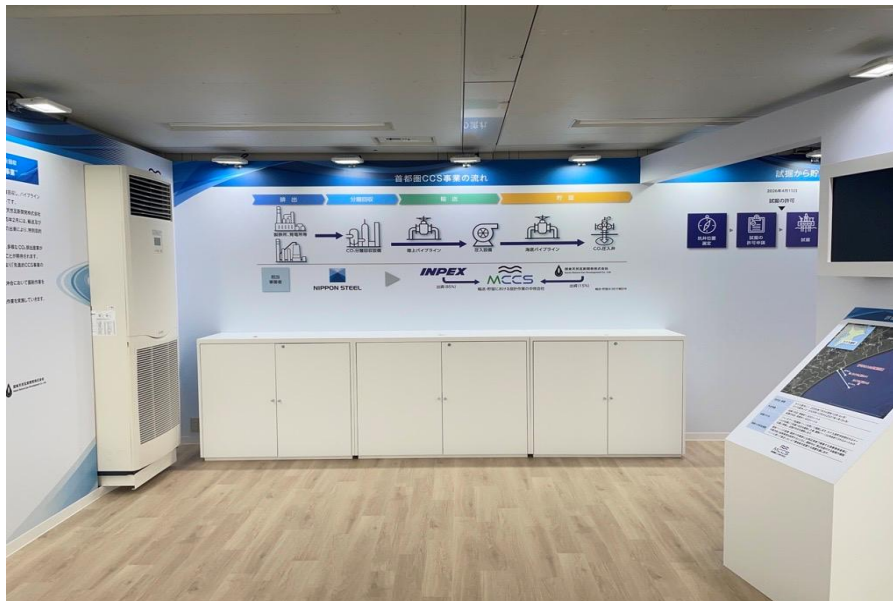
Metropolitan CCS: External Affairs Group, Website) <https://mccs.inpex.co.jp/> (Japanese only)

INPEX: Public Relations Group, Tel) +81-3-5572-0750

Kanto Natural Gas Development: General Affairs Group, Tel) +81-475-23-1313



Location Map of the Permitted Appraisal Area and Wells



Exhibition Area of “Umi to Mirai - CCS Communication Center”

Address: 2347-98 Kozeki, Kujukuri-machi, Sambu-gun, Chiba 283-0102, Japan
 (Next to the second parking lot of Seaside Plaza Kujukuri)

Opening Hours: 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Closed: Tuesdays, Wednesdays and during the year-end and New Year holiday



Drilling Rig Viewed from Katakai Beach (Center of Image)



Drilling Rig Viewed from Katakai Beach (Close-Up)