



International Partnership for Geothermal Technology

On May 10-12, thirty-seven geothermal experts from The United States, Iceland and Australia gathered in Nesjavellir, Iceland to discuss geothermal exploration technology and reservoir stimulation procedures. The workshop was designed as a bilateral workshop between Iceland and The United States under the auspices of the International Partnership for Geothermal Technology (IPGT), which representatives from the U.S., Iceland and Australia signed on August 28, 2008.

Experts in the stimulation sessions identified several areas that they believe are key to developing consistently successful reservoir stimulation practices. They identified a reliable, comprehensive, 3D model, and a code comparison of existing models as the highest priorities. The group also noted that the exchange of data from past and present stimulation projects in Iceland, the U.S., Australia and Europe to use in the models is of the utmost importance. Stress determination methods, zonal isolation, high temperature tools, stimulation methods and the increased availability of sites in which to test new technologies and methods were also cited as priorities.

The exploration group identified areas of research that could improve identification and understanding of geothermal systems with the aim of finding new hydrothermal and enhanced geothermal systems (EGS) resources. Priority areas include more robust methods for interpreting and imaging the subsurface (using resistivity, seismicity, and better processing software); high temperature and pressure rock physics; crustal deformation; remote sensing for hidden systems; and better rock laboratory facilities.

IPGT member countries will use the priorities identified in the workshop sessions to identify bi- and trilateral joint projects and to inform their future domestic research funding. Additionally, they will use them to augment the sixteen general high-priority topic areas identified in the inaugural IPGT workshop last August.

In honor of the workshop, the U.S. Embassy Reykjavik held a dinner for U.S. and Icelandic government representatives to facilitate collaboration on geothermal policy.

IPGT recognizes the global need for a reliable, baseload source of renewable energy and accelerates the development of geothermal technologies through international cooperation. It provides a forum for government and industry leaders to coordinate their efforts and collaborate on projects. Partners share information on results and best practices to avoid blind alleys, limit unnecessary duplication, and efficiently accelerate the development of geothermal technologies.