



## **AGREEMENT ON THE CONSTITUTION AND ORGANISATION OF THE EUROPEAN NETWORK FOR RESEARCH IN GEO-ENERGY (ENeRG)**

Revision approved by the Network Steering Committee on 15 March 2018

### **1. MISSION OF ENeRG**

The mission of the European Network for Research in Geo-Energy (ENeRG) is to promote co-operation between European R&D organisations whose main interest is to conduct basic or applied research or technological development in the field of exploration and production of geo-energy.

The establishment of ENeRG in 1992 was based on the following observations:

- a. the importance of research and development (R&D) to innovation in European, geo-energy related industry (operators and service and supply companies), to the effective and environmentally benign exploitation of the world's subsurface natural resources and to the competitiveness of this European industry in the international market place;
- b. the advantages of European collaboration in R&D to ensure no unnecessary duplication of research effort, to ease the flow of public domain information, to ensure that appropriate, high quality and multi-disciplinary capability is optimally deployed, and to best serve European industry; and
- c. the increasing importance of EU legislation and policies on the activities of R&D organisations in Europe.

The focus of ENeRG has been evolving from fossil energy sources, especially oil and gas towards all subsurface technologies for enabling low-carbon energy transition, climate change mitigation and security of supply: geothermal energy, CO<sub>2</sub> geological storage, underground energy storage, etc.

### **2. STATUS**

ENeRG operates as a “club”. It is not a separate legal entity, does not have and shall not recruit any personnel, and does not have nor will acquire any property or assets. Members of ENeRG (herein after referred to as “Members”) have no liabilities whatsoever towards ENeRG, neither during its existence nor after its dissolution. ENeRG cannot conclude contracts or enter into legal transactions of any kind, nor can it legally bind or engage Members in any way.

### 3. OBJECTIVES

The main objectives of ENeRG are:

- a. To inform/advise Members on EU's and other international R&D programmes and the possibilities to apply for funding;
- b. To identify and match opportunities and requirements for new R&D projects which will bring benefits to European citizens, industry and public sector;
- c. To promote scientific and technical collaboration between Members (to function as a "broker" for international consortia);
- d. To explore and promote, where appropriate, Members' coordinated views on R&D, legislation and policy issues;
- e. To foster interaction and exchange of information between Members and national/European stakeholders;
- f. To disseminate geo-energy research results and synthesized knowledge Europe-wide;
- g. To promote the transfer of European know-how and technology to third countries.

### 4. ORGANISATION AND OPERATION

It is the aim of ENeRG to have as many European countries as possible represented in ENeRG by means of one or more of their R&D organisations in the field of geo-energy exploration and production.

The following organisational framework governs the operation of the Network:

a) *The Members:*

- The signatory parties to this Agreement are the members of ENeRG;
- Membership of ENeRG is open to any organisation within Europe whose one of the main missions is to conduct basic or applied research or technological development in the field of exploration and production of geo-energy;
- The admission of new Members is subject to a unanimous decision by the Network Steering Committee and becomes effective through the signing by the new Member's representative of the Letter of Accession to ENeRG (see Annex 1) and acceptance in full of the terms and conditions in this Agreement;
- Any Member may withdraw from ENeRG at any time by notifying the Presiding Member (see below) of its decision to do so. However if a Member is fulfilling the Presidency of ENeRG, its withdrawal shall be subject to giving three months' notice to other Members of an intention to quit. The Presiding Member under these circumstances shall, upon notification of withdrawal, also call a special meeting of the Network Steering Committee (see below) in order to discuss the consequences of withdrawal from the Network.

b) *Network Steering Committee:*

- The Network Steering Committee (NSC) comprises one nominated representative of each Member. Each representative has one vote.
- The NSC shall be presided on a rotational basis by one of the Members for a two-year period (see item c) below).
- A meeting of the NSC is called at least twice a year. Furthermore, each individual Member may call upon the Presiding Member to convene an extraordinary meeting, specifying the item to be placed on the agenda. In this event, the Presiding Member shall call the meeting within 30 days of the request.
- The NSC deliberates on all matters of interest to the activities of ENeRG, including the amount of the membership fee to be paid by each ENeRG Member, and controls the actions of the Presiding Member, instructing the Presiding Member on the direction of his/her activities.
- The NSC makes decisions by the majority of votes of present NSC Members.
- The NSC may establish ad hoc Working Groups. These Groups shall be charged with the accomplishment of tasks as defined by the NSC. The composition and functioning of such Groups shall be decided on a case-by-case basis.

- The NSC elects the Members who will perform the duties of Treasurer, Secretary, Newsletter editor and Web administrator (see item d, below), based on written applications submitted in answer to calls for the aforementioned positions.

*c) The Presiding Member:*

- The Presiding Member, elected by the NSC, will chair the NSC for a two-year period.
- The Presiding Member is responsible for the implementation of the Network's objectives and shall undertake all actions deemed useful in this regard, taking into account any instructions received from the NSC in this respect.
- The Presiding Member is responsible for the co-ordination of public statements or publications associated with the Network activities.
- The Presiding Member and the Secretary manage ENeRG on a daily basis.
- The Presiding Member is assisted by the Secretary, the former Presiding Member and when nominated by the forthcoming Presiding Member.

*d) The Treasurer, Secretary, Newsletter editor and Web administrator:*

- The ENeRG activities are supported by the Treasurer, Secretary, Newsletter editor and Web administrator. The Members who perform the aforementioned duties are elected by the NSC on the basis of the applications they submit. The tasks and the allocated budget are defined by the call, and subsequently by an ENeRG letter of agreement for the task with allocated payment.

## **5. FINANCING**

Each Member pays an annual membership fee, which is due to cover the normal running costs of ENeRG. The amount is decided by the NSC, considering whether the organisation belongs to a high or low capital income country.

Normal running costs include the cost of:

- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Newsletter editor
- Web administrator
- Travel of Presiding Member for representing ENeRG at key external events

The membership of non-paying Members can be terminated by a decision of the NSC.

Each Member is responsible for its own expenses related to its involvement in ENeRG.

## **6. JOINTLY CONTRACTED ACTIVITY**

As a consequence of the efforts of ENeRG and the results obtained with regard to the strategy and policy of the European institutions, two or more Members of ENeRG may decide to enter into joint R&D or other activity. The terms and conditions governing such joint activity shall be the subject of a separate agreement between the parties involved and shall not in any way be bound or restricted by the terms and conditions of this Agreement.

## **7. CONFIDENTIALITY**

Each Member undertakes to keep confidential any information or data belonging to another Member which it comes to know or is informed of through this Agreement. Each Member undertakes to inform its staff of this duty of confidentiality.

## **8. MODIFICATIONS**

Any proposal for modification of this agreement shall be circulated with an agenda at least two weeks prior to a NSC meeting for decision at this meeting.

Annex 1: Letter of Accession to ENeRG