CCSA Briefing – Innovation Fund (IF) 2025

(December 2025)

Briefing — Innovation Fund (IF) 2025

On **3 November 2025** the European Commission announced **€2.9 billion** of Innovation Fund support for **61 selected net-zero technology projects**, including a cluster of projects that advance carbon capture, CO_2 transport and permanent geological storage (CCUS). The selections illustrate a clear push by the EU to build CCUS value chains across inland and maritime routes and to support first-of-a-kind onshore storage in new geographies (e.g., Romania, Poland, Greece hubs). Several major industrial players (cement majors, gas/TSO actors, maritime CCUS consortia) are among the beneficiaries.

Large-scale projects

- **AirvaultGoCO2 (Heidelberg Materials, France)**
  Full-chain CCUS at an inland cement plant, with around 1 Mtpa capture capacity as part of the GOCO2 network; CO_2 transported by pipeline to Saint Nazaire, liquefied and shipped to permanent storage under the North Sea, with the biogenic share supplied to efuel production.
- **ANTHEMIS (Heidelberg Materials, Belgium)**
  Oxyfuel-based carbon capture project at the Antoing clinker plant, using a second generation OxyCal hybrid capture unit that combines oxyfuel and amine technologies to cut over 95% of site CO_2 emissions, with arrangements for transport and offshore permanent storage as part of a full value chain.
- **APOLLOCO2LT (DESFA, Greece)**
  Planned open access CCS hub in Greece providing midstream infrastructure to connect inland emitters to permanent storage, including new CO_2 pipeline and terminal capacity with synergies to existing gas/LNG infrastructure and ship-based export to storage sites such as Prinos and other regional hubs.
- **CARBON HUB CPT01 (Holcim, Romania)**
  Integrated CCS hub in Romania capturing CO_2 from the Câmpulung cement plant and partner industrial sites, with pipeline transport to onshore depleted hydrocarbon fields for permanent storage, representing Eastern Europe's first full scale onshore CCS project.
- **DEZiR (VERSO Energy, France)**
  Large-scale power-to-liquid eSAF project using biogenic CO_2 and renewable hydrogen to produce methanol followed by methanol-to-jet conversion, supplying synthetic sustainable aviation fuel.
- **DREAM (Heidelberg Materials, Italy)**
  First full chain, full scale CCS project in the Italian cement sector at the Rezzato Mazzano plant, deploying a hybrid carbon capture system to capture around 1 Mtpa of CO_2 and send it to the Ravenna CCS storage hub beneath the Adriatic Sea.

- **Arcadia eFuels Vordingborg plant (Denmark)**
  Commercial power-to-liquid facility producing eSAF and other efuels via Fischer Tropsch synthesis, using renewable electricity, water electrolysis and captured CO_2, with planned output of roughly 100 million litres of eSAF per year.

- **HuCCSar (Heidelberg Materials, Poland)**
  Poland's first onshore CCS value chain in the cement sector, combining post combustion capture at a cement plant with transport and onshore geological storage development in central Poland to enable subsequent scaleup.

- **ReSTart (VERSO Energy, France)**
  Large-scale eSAF project using biogenic CO_2 from specialty cellulose production, renewable hydrogen, methanol synthesis and methanol-to-jet conversion, with planned supply of synthetic SAF volumes to major airports including Paris Charles de Gaulle and Amsterdam Schiphol.

- **VAIA (Vicat, France)**
  CCS project at the Montalieu Vercieu cement plant, capturing up to around 1.2 Mtpa of CO_2 and transporting it via a repurposed oil pipeline to the Fossur Mer area for liquefaction and shipment to permanent offshore storage, as part of a broader industrial coalition.

Medium-scale projects

- **COnet2 Sea (Enagás / Scale Gas, Spain)**
  Project to design, build and operate a dedicated CO_2 transport ship and associated logistics to enable liquid CO_2 shipping from coastal terminals to offshore storage.

- **Leopard (Carmeuse, Belgium)**
  Hybrid limekiln decarbonisation project at Aisemont combining advanced kiln design, process CO_2 preconcentration and membrane-based carbon capture, targeting very low carbon lime production with a solution designed for replication across a large share of the European lime fleet.

- **PP2XH: Pärnu P2X Hub (Destiny Energy, Estonia)**
  Planned emethanol project at Pärnu Airport using renewable power and CO_2 sourced from biogas or other local streams to produce green methanol.

- **RECLAIM (Danish agro-industrial consortium, Denmark)**
  Renewable energy and fuels cluster led by BioCirc integrating upgraded biogas from agricultural residues, largescale electrolysis for green hydrogen and methanol production, with continued use of digestate in regional agriculture within a circular bioeconomy model.

What the Commission announced

The Commission presented the outcome of the IF24/2024 call (results communicated 3 Nov 2025): **61 projects selected; €2.9bn in grants** to accelerate net-zero technologies across sectors (energy-intensive

industries, hydrogen, e-fuels, battery manufacturing, CCUS, etc.). The announcement emphasises large-scale demonstration and EU added value

Next round (IF-2025)

On 3 December 2025, the Commission announced €5.2 billion in EU ETS revenues earmarked for the Innovation Fund to support clean transition technologies through 2027, emphasizing CCUS, low-carbon industrial processes, energy-intensive sectors, renewables, energy storage, hydrogen, and sustainable alternative fuels. No new project selections were detailed in this announcement; the announcement focuses on overall resource allocation rather than specific grant awards.

The IF-2025 call opened on 3 December 2025, with applications due by 24 April 2026 and results expected in Q4 2026. This includes the general Net-Zero Technologies call (€2.4 billion budget), a dedicated Battery Manufacturing call (€1 billion), and auctions under the European Hydrogen Bank and Industrial Decarbonisation Bank.