

# "Regional CCU™": pioneering decarbonization initiative of Niterra, powered by CO<sub>2</sub> measurement technology

## Case study



### The Client:

Niterra Co., Ltd.  
Energy Business Division  
Carbon Recycling Development  
Department

### Vaisala solution:

Multigas CO<sub>2</sub> probes:  
MGP261 (CO<sub>2</sub> + methane + dew point)  
MGP241 (CO<sub>2</sub> + dew point)

### IGNITE YOUR SPIRIT: The transformation of NGK SPARK PLUG CO., LTD. into Niterra Co., Ltd.

Niterra Co., Ltd. (Niterra), formerly known as NGK SPARK PLUG CO., LTD., was founded in 1936 in Nagoya City, Aichi Prefecture, Japan, where its headquarters remain today. The company's first president, Mr. Magoemon Ezoe, promoted the use of porcelain—a Japanese specialty—for spark plugs. Building on this foundation, the company became a global leader in spark plugs for internal combustion engines. Over the years, Niterra has commercialized innovations based on ceramic materials, such as ceramic IC packages, ultrasonic transducers, automotive oxygen sensors, and electrostatic chucks, expanding its technological and business domains. Its core competencies now include ceramic material technology, a global business platform, and sensing technology.

In 2023, the company rebranded as the "Niterra Group" by changing its English company name and adopting the mission to become "a company

brightens the entire global environment." The company is committed to addressing global challenges and building a sustainable society. As of March 2025, Niterra operates 31 domestic and 62 international sites, employing 15,644 people. It is accelerating efforts in three key areas: "environment & energy," "mobility," and "semiconductors."

**Niterra**

Figure 1: Niterra's corporate logo



Photo 1:  
Multigas probe MGP261  
selected for this project,  
enables simultaneous  
measurement of CO<sub>2</sub>,  
methane, and dew point.



**Regional CCU™:** A system in which CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from local factories are captured and reused within the same region. Furthermore, by combining the captured CO<sub>2</sub> with H<sub>2</sub>, synthetic fuels are produced and circulated back to the factories, creating a closed-loop cycle.

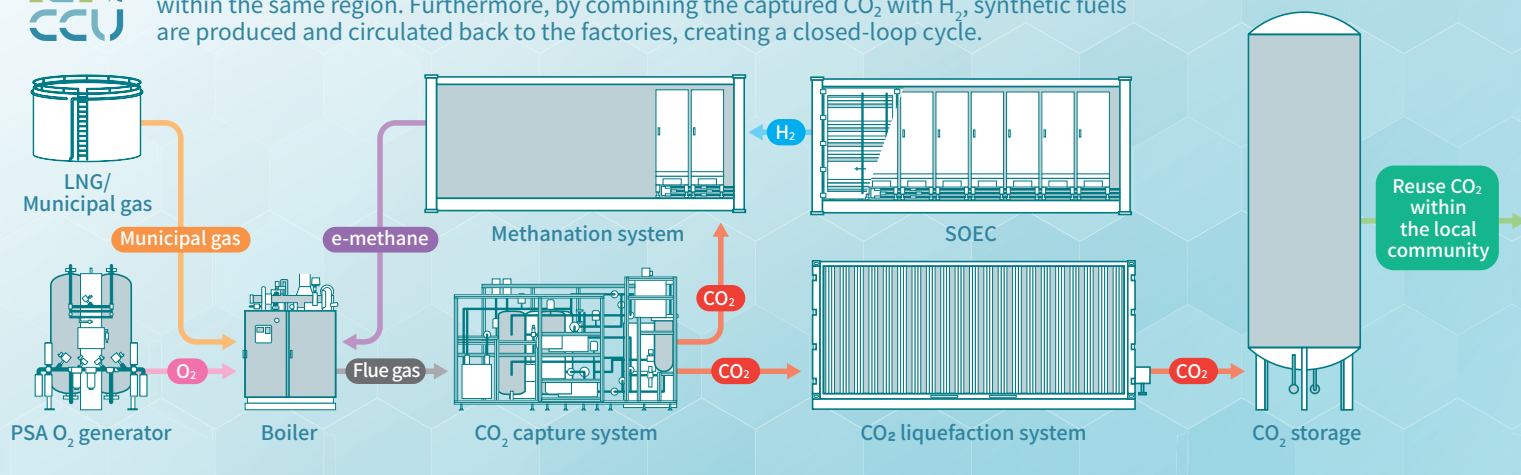


Figure 2: Regional CCU™ configuration [Source: Nitterra Co., Ltd., translated by Vaisala]

### "REGIONAL CCU™":

#### What are the measurement instrument requirements for its development?

As part of its "environment & energy" strategy, Nitterra is pursuing "Regional CCU™" —a vision to reduce a region's CO<sub>2</sub> emissions to near zero. CO<sub>2</sub> from factories is captured via various technologies and reused locally. Hydrogen is generated through solid oxide electrolysis (SOEC), then methanated into e-methane fuel used in factories. This unique carbon recycling approach leverages regional industrial features to address social and environmental issues. The initiative is advancing through collaboration with local firms and municipalities in Gamagori City, Aichi Prefecture.

\*CCU: Carbon dioxide Capture Utization

Nitterra is using Vaisala's CO<sub>2</sub> measurement instruments, including the MGP series, in developing its CO<sub>2</sub> capture system—one of the cornerstones of "Regional CCU™." Targeting small- to mid-scale sources like industrial furnaces and boilers, the system employs VPSA (Vacuum Pressure Swing Adsorption), processing 64 Nm<sup>3</sup> of exhaust gas per hour and recovering over 90% of the CO<sub>2</sub>. Development began in

October 2021 and is now in the commercial design phase, with a market launch planned for 2027.

"Precise CO<sub>2</sub> measurement is essential," explains Shota Takahashi, Senior Engineer, Carbon Recycling Development Dept., Energy Business Div. "Earlier options had challenges like the need to dry sample gas and long-term stability, requiring large, complex, and costly support systems. Vaisala's MGP261 helped us solve these key issues."

The MGP261, a compact multigas probe using Vaisala's proprietary NDIR CARBOCAP® sensor, enables in-line measurement of CO<sub>2</sub>, methane, and dew point. Key features include:

- Supports simultaneous 0–100% CO<sub>2</sub> and methane measurement with dew point monitoring in the -10 to +60°C range
- True in-line installation
- No gas sampling or drying required
- Virtually maintenance-free; no daily calibration
- MEMS Microglow infrared light source, 15+ year lifespan
- Tuneable optical filter without moving parts
- Long-term stability with auto-calibration
- Certified for use in explosive atmospheres

*"In the development of the CO<sub>2</sub> capture system, the CO<sub>2</sub> measurement instruments we initially considered had several issues, particularly with dehumidification and long-term stability. The only available measurement methods that could resolve these challenges required relatively complex and large-scale auxiliary equipment, along with significant costs. With Vaisala's MGP261, we were able to overcome those core challenges."*

**Shota Takahashi** Senior Engineer, Carbon Recycling Development Dept., Energy Business Div.



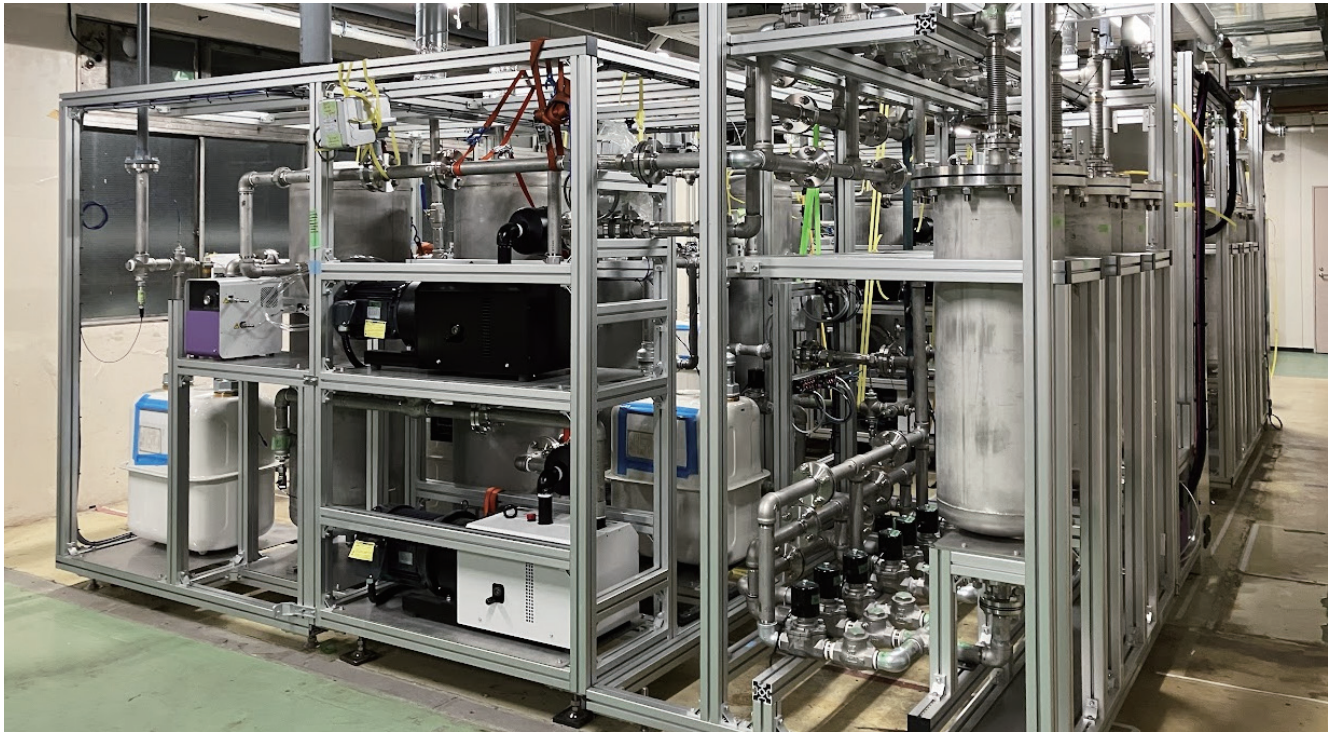


Photo 2: CO<sub>2</sub> capture system under testing

"We need raw, continuous CO<sub>2</sub> data to monitor what happens inside the system—when and where. Real-time measurements without gas pretreatment are crucial. MGP261 offers a simple solution. Its reliability, low-maintenance and easy-to-use design reduce costs and make it easier to expand measurement points," Takahashi notes. "It also enables optimization by directly linking real-time CO<sub>2</sub> values to system controls."

What should the size and mechanism of the absorption towers, buffer tanks, and overall system be? To determine the most rational design for commercial deployment, accurate, continuous gas data is vital at key points in the test system. The MGP261 meets these requirements and also supports development of the methanation unit, thanks to its methane measurement capability.

### FROM DEVELOPMENT TO DEPLOYMENT: Measurement instruments supporting realization

"Our vision is to build a CO<sub>2</sub> capture system that's compact and cost-effective enough to be used not only by large firms but also by smaller businesses—true to our 'Regional CCU' vision," says Masahiro Kajitani, General Manager, Carbon Recycling Development Dept., Energy Business Div.

In 2024, Vaisala introduced the MGP241, a specialized multigas probe for CO<sub>2</sub> and dew point measurement. By excluding methane sensing and explosion-proof features, it offers a lower-cost,

more compact design—perfect for measuring 90–100% CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations after recovery. As such, it stands out as a rare option that combines performance and usability, making continuous CO<sub>2</sub> monitoring within the system even easier.

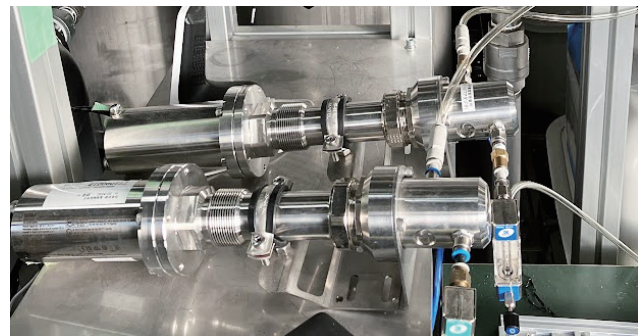


Photo 3: MGP261 connected to the CO<sub>2</sub> capture system during demonstration testing (connected using the flow-through adapter option)

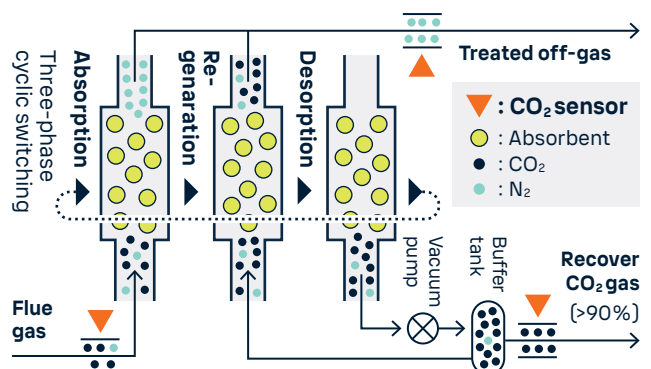


Figure 3: Basic configuration diagram of the system

*"Assuming a future where carbon credit trading demands greater transparency, we believe that actual measured values on the output side will increasingly be required. Considering this outlook, the MGP241 – which has been simplified and offers highly accurate, long-term stable continuous measurement of raw CO<sub>2</sub> data – will likely become an essential choice in the CO<sub>2</sub> capture process."*

*Masahiro Kajitani* General Manager, Carbon Recycling Development Dept., Energy Business Div.

"Currently, GHG emissions are typically calculated using theoretical values, by multiplying fuel consumption on the input side by an emission factor. However, as carbon credit trading becomes more transparency-driven, we believe that actual measured values on the output side will increasingly be required. In the light of this outlook, the MGP241 as a simple instrument capable of continuously measuring 'raw CO<sub>2</sub> data' with high accuracy and long-term stability, is likely to become an essential solution in the CO<sub>2</sub> capture process," says Kajitani.

He adds that minimizing total lifecycle cost - both of CAPEX and OPEX - is critical to promoting

widespread adoption of decarbonization technologies. He appreciates Vaisala's support: "Local team work closely with the global team and are very responsive. Despite being a global company, their localized documentation and technical support are excellent."

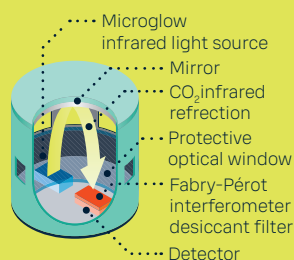
Alongside the MGP261 and MGP241, Niterra also uses Vaisala's GMP series for lower-concentration CO<sub>2</sub> and DMP series for dew point monitoring. Backed by nearly 90 years of innovation, Vaisala supports this initiative with best-in-class instruments and expert collaboration—advancing the realization of Niterra's carbon recycling goals.



Photo 4: Size comparison of multigas probe MGP241 for simultaneous CO<sub>2</sub> and dew point measurement for CCUS applications launched in 2024, and the MGP261.

#### Key features of multigas probe MGP241

- Proprietary CARBOCAP® non-dispersive infrared (NDIR) sensor
- Enables simultaneous in-line measurement of CO<sub>2</sub> and dew point
- Direct in-line installation into the process pipeline for continuous measurement
- Maintenance-free in daily operation



Basic structure of CARBOCAP



Light weight, compact probe design

