Combined geoscientific investigations of geothermal reservoir characteristics in Lower Saxony, Germany

B. Hahne, R. Thomas (Leibniz Institute for Applied Geophysics) and the team „gebo Geosystem“
E-Mail: barbara.hahne@liag-hannover.de

Introduction
The federal state of Lower Saxony pursues the ambitious goal to maximise the use of its geothermal potential for the supply of thermal heat and electric power. Lower Saxony is largely situated in the North German Basin. It provides a significant geothermal potential, although temperature gradients are moderate. However, deep drilling up to several thousand meters is required to reach temperatures high enough for efficient generation of electric power. The costs of developing a geothermal reservoir are therefore high, and the risk of missing the optimum drilling location must be minimised.

The gebo project
The collaborative research program “Geothermal Energy and High Performance Drilling” (gebo) started in 2009 and unites several universities and research institutes in Lower Saxony, Germany. It aims at a significant increase of economic efficiency by introducing innovative technology and high tech materials. Furthermore, a better understanding of the geothermal reservoir is essential.

gebo is structured into four main fields: Geosystem, Drilling Technology, Materials, and Technical Systems. Here, we show the combined work of the Geosystem group.

Projects concerned with geophysical Exploration
G1: Detection of Fault Zones Using Seismic Methods
G2: Detection of Fault Zones Using Electric and Electromagnetic Methods
G8: Electrical Impedance Tomography for the Characterisation of Geothermal Systems

Projects concerned with Modelling
G7: Modelling of Coupled thermo-hydraulic-mechanical Processes in Georeservoirs

Projects concerned with the Characterization of the reservoir
G5: Hydromechanics of Geothermal Reservoirs
G6: Hydraulic, Heat and Tracer Tests at Wellbore and Reservoir Scale
G9: Hydrogeochemical Processes in Geothermal Systems

Projects concerned with Drilling and Stimulation
G3: Heterogeneous Rock Properties, Drilling Efficiency and Fracture Propagation
G4: Characterisation of Enhanced Geothermal Reservoirs by Diagnostic Methods

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Team gebo-Geosystem:
Univ Göttlingen: I. Ghengul, E. Holzbecher, S. Philipp, D. Reyer, M. Sauter
BGR, Hannover: D. Fielitz, M. Vasterling, U. Wegler, C. Bönnemann
TU Braunschweig: A. Hördt, I. Löhken, M. Bücker
TU Clausthal: E. Bozau, W. van Berk

www.gebo-nds.de