

Economy Division



23 August 2018

Dear Mr. Magne,

I enjoyed very much meeting you and your colleagues and having the opportunity to learn more about the Dirisolar Solar Airship. Environmental monitoring is a high and growing priority for many countries but the costs of doing so with conventional aerial platforms is often too expensive. It is for that reason that we find the Dirisolar approach so exciting.

In our work we see strong growth in demand for airborne measurement of conventional air pollutants and, of particularly interest to UN Environment, of methane emissions throughout the natural gas value chain. For example, we have a large scientific programme underway that has the aim of improving understanding of where and when methane emissions occur in offshore oil and gas operations. Methane is a potent greenhouse gas and contributes to regional air pollution, and hence is of environmental concern in a number of ways. In some instances our scientific partners have had to make hard decisions about which instruments to put in a small airplane when conducting measurement campaigns over the North Sea. To have a larger, lower cost monitoring platform such as Dirisolar would provide would eliminate the need to make these difficult choices.

My colleagues and I are excited about the many possibilities where the Dirisolar solar airship could be put to practical use in countries around the world, and would appreciate very much being kept informed of developments.

Yours sincerely,

Mark Radka

Chief, Energy and Climate Branch

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