



European Solar Thermal Technology Platform presented first findings at estec2007

Brussels/Freiburg, 19 June: Since the decision of the European Union to set a binding target of 20% renewables in 2020, it becomes more and more obvious that renewable heating and cooling must play a large role to achieve this target. The need to rapidly increase the usage of solar thermal energy leads to a strong discussion within the sector, regarding which technological developments are needed.

20% binding target calls for increased use of solar thermal

The European Solar Thermal Technology Platform (ESTTP) is at the forefront of this discussion, and aims at developing a strategic research agenda on the basis of a detailed solar thermal vision for 2030.

The ESTTP was launched by ESTIF and EUREC in May 2006. More than 100 experts discussed the work which needs to be carried out further at the first annual ESTTP meeting in December 2006. Since January 2007, 12 working groups with more than 70 experts have been working on the topics "Solar Thermal Systems for Buildings" as well as "Solar Thermal Systems for Industrial Processes and Refrigeration" and "Solar Thermal Deployment, Strategy and Scenarios".

More than 70 experts discuss technological developments needed for solar

"We are very happy about the strong participation of experts from all over Europe within the platform. This shows that the platform is a very useful instrument to define the potential of solar thermal and accelerate the needed technological development" says Gerhard Stryi-Hipp, Chairman of the ESTTP.

Strong participation of experts from all over Europe

Within the frame of estec 2007, ESTTP presented and discussed first results of its work. The next step is a working conference for all supporting group members on October 22 and 23, where the draft of the next version of the vision paper will be evaluated and discussed. This next edition of the Strategic Research Agenda is to be presented and distributed during a special conference during the European Union Sustainable Energy Week (EUSEW) in February 2008.

Further Information:

ESTTP: www.esttp.org
Estec2007: www.estec2007.org
ESTIF: www.estif.org
EUSEW: www.eusew.org

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The ESTIF headquarters in Brussels are closed during estec2007 (3rd European Solar Thermal Energy Conference): 19-20 June 2007, www.estec2007.org and the Intersolar Fair, 21-23 June 2007.

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