

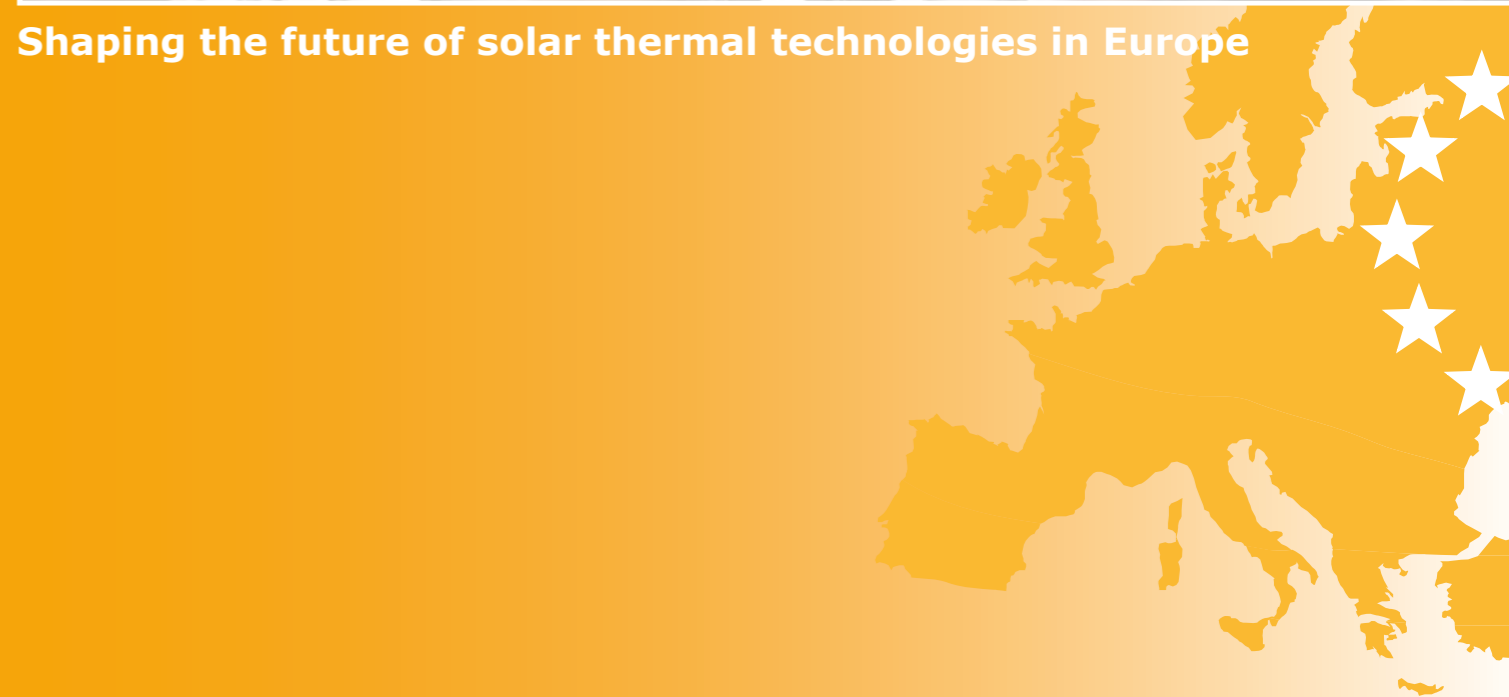


# European Solar Thermal Technology Platform

The Solar Thermal Technology Platform is considered by the European Solar Thermal Industry and Research Centres to be a crucial strategic measure to support the achievement of the Solar Thermal Vision for 2030. Its role is to define, support and accompany the implementation of a coherent and comprehensive strategic plan.



Shaping the future of solar thermal technologies in Europe



Research Communication



Get involved in shaping the future of solar thermal technology – become an active member of the ESTTP:

[www.esttp.org](http://www.esttp.org)

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The ESTTP is strongly supported by the European Solar Thermal Industry Federation (ESTIF) and the European Renewable Energy Centres Agency (EUREC Agency). It was developed by an initiator group of experts from these organizations.



SIXTH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME

## Important dates

21 June 2005

The idea for the ESTTP was first presented at the European Solar Thermal Energy Conference, estec2005

30 May 2006

Launch event, in Brussels, of the ESTTP with EU Commissioner for Energy, Andris Piebalgs

June 2006

First meeting of the steering committee

Autumn 2006

First meetings of working groups  
Foundation of national mirror groups

2 February 2007

ESTTP Presentation at the European Union Sustainable Energy Week

19 June 2007

ESTTP Conference at estec2007 in Freiburg

23-23 October 2007

ESTTP Working Conference in Brussels

29 January 2008

ESTTP Conference during the European Union Sustainable Energy Week

April 2008

Finalising of the Vision/SRA

April 2008

Selection of the new Steering Committee members

June 2008

General Assembly of the ESTTP



## A Technology Platform for Solar Thermal

The European solar thermal industry and research centres have established the European Solar Thermal Technology Platform.

The goal of the ESTTP is to develop a strategic research agenda for the solar thermal sector, which will help the industry, the research community as well as public funding bodies to focus on high-impact topics. This will reinforce the technological leadership of the European solar thermal sector which is key to boosting the deployment of solar thermal technologies in Europe as well as worldwide export of this sector's products.

### Aims

- Strengthen awareness of the huge potential of solar thermal technologies to contribute to a sustainable energy system of the future
- Increase the R&D activities in the solar thermal sector
- Accelerate the development of the solar thermal technology
- Prepare the conditions for a broad dissemination of advanced solar thermal technologies



## Objectives

- Develop a vision for Solar Thermal Technology in 2030
- Work out a Strategic Research Agenda to achieve the vision
- Identify non-technological framework conditions facilitating a broad market deployment of solar thermal technologies

## Technology Platforms boost European industrial competitiveness<sup>1</sup>

The European Commission began promoting the concept of Technology Platforms in 2003 as part of its "Lisbon Strategy". The primary objective of a European Technology Platform (ETP) is to boost European industrial competitiveness. It achieves this by defining research and development priorities, timeframes and action plans on a number of strategically important issues where achieving Europe's future growth, competitiveness and sustainability objectives is dependent on major research and technological advances in the medium to long-term.

ETPs bring together a wide range of stakeholders, including key industrial players, small and medium enterprises, the financial world, national and regional public authorities, the research community, universities, non-governmental organisations and civil society.

The European Commission sees ETPs as playing an important role in helping to identify new research priorities. Set up as informal discussion networks, primarily upon the initiative of the industry sector, the European Commission encourages this bottom-up, flexible approach to defining medium to long-term research needs.

<sup>1</sup> Adapted from Second Status Report on European Technology Platforms. Moving to Implementation. European Commission, DG RTD, May 2006

## Structure of the ESTTP

### Steering Committee

Responsible for running the platform; members: 15-20 experts from the European solar thermal industry, research and politics.

### Focus groups

The ESTTP consists of 3 Focus Groups, which in turn are divided into different working groups.

### The Focus Groups are:

FG 1: Solar Thermal Systems for buildings (heating and cooling),  
 FG 2: Solar Thermal systems for industrial applications (including refrigeration) and  
 FG 3: Solar Thermal deployment, strategy and scenarios (market and policy)

### Working groups

Working on different issues within the individual Focus Groups, such as fundamental research, applied research, market deployment and political instruments, etc. members: interested European experts can apply for membership.

### Support group

Supporting the platform; members: every company, institute or person interested in the development of the solar thermal technology can become a member.

### Secretariat

ESTIF and EUREC Agency, both located in Renewable Energy House, Brussels are responsible for the secretariat.

### National STTPs

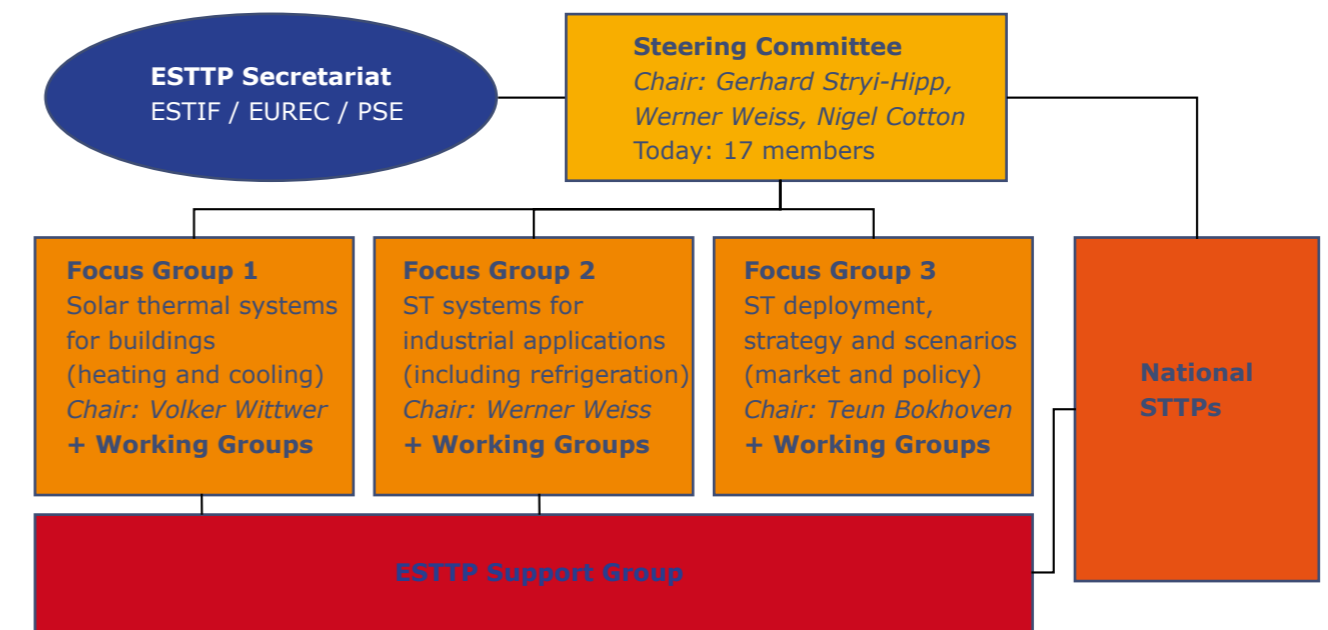
Working on national level to provide input for the ESTTP and harmonize the European and national research agendas; national STTPs will be initiated by national experts.

### Cooperation

Become a member of the support group of the ESTTP, go to:

[www.esttp.org](http://www.esttp.org)

## Organisational Structure of the ESTTP



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