

European Solar Thermal Technology Platform

Sustainable and secure supply of Europe's heat demand

The **European Solar Thermal Technology Platform (ESTTP)** was launched on 21 June 2005 at the 2nd European Solar Thermal Energy Conference estec2005. The establishment of ESTTP is a very important step to accelerate the development of solar thermal technology as a significant energy resource to meet the heating and cooling demand in Europe. Technology Platforms (TPs) are instruments created by the European Commission in order to bring together stakeholders of a technology to strengthen Europe's leading position in certain technology areas. It is expected that the TPs will influence the European R&D politics decisively.

The aims

ESTTP aims to

- accelerate the development of solar thermal technology
- secure the technological leadership of Europe's solar thermal industry
- maintain the scientific and technical leadership of Europe's R&D institutes
- increase the awareness of the huge technological potential of solar thermal energy technology and the R&D efforts for this sector significantly
- increase the use of solar thermal energy and reduce Europe's dependence on fossil fuels and electricity for heating and cooling purposes

The main elements

TPs are based on two main elements: A vision of the technology for the year 2030 and a strategic research agenda that describes the measures required during the next decades to implement this vision. Currently, representatives from industry, science, policy and business associations for solar thermal technology are in the process of elaborating and defining these elements for ESTTP.

The **solar thermal vision for 2030** is based on the **ACTIVE SOLAR HOUSE as the standard building concept for the future**. In the ACTIVE SOLAR HOUSE, the entire demand for heating and cooling will be met by active solar systems. Additionally the solar thermal vision for 2030 will describe similar advanced solar applications in the sector of building renovation and industrial process heat.

The **strategic research agenda** will focus on measures to achieve the required cost reductions, to increase the solar fraction of the heat supply for houses step by step and to develop new applications for solar thermal energy, e.g. process heat for industrial purposes. For these steps substantial research will be necessary in areas such as innovative heat storage technology, advanced solar collector materials and the integration of solar thermal technology into buildings and industrial processes. ESTTP is an important instrument to increase the awareness of the huge technological potential of solar thermal energy, especially with regard to the 7th framework programme of the European Commission.

The structure

The planned structure of ESTTP foresees a HIGH-LEVEL GROUP of representatives from European industry, research institutes and politics to lead ESTTP. A STEERING COMMITTEE will

coordinate the actions of ESTTP. In some WORKING GROUPS, special focus areas will be covered, e.g. research on storage or work on policy and instruments. In addition national mirror groups will be founded. The members of these groups will be selected to represent all important groups of stakeholders from all regions of Europe. In the SUPPORT GROUP, all actors in the field of solar thermal technology can become members. They can participate in the discussion and will be informed about the activities of ESTTP.

Building up the ESTTP

Creating ESTTP is an open and dynamic bottom-up process which is just in the start-up phase. An initial draft of the solar thermal vision is currently being prepared. After the first presentation of ESTTP at the estec 2005 conference, a very important milestone will be the **ESTTP kick-off meeting in Brussels on 19 October 2005.**

Support Group

All European actors in the field of solar thermal technology are asked to support the idea and participate in building up ESTTP. Only a letter of support is needed, as described below. The draft of a letter of support and further information are available under www.esttp.org

Members of the SUPPORT GROUP (as of 16 June 2005)

AEE Intec, Aiguasol Engineering, Alanod-Sunselect GmbH & Co. KG, BMVIT (Austria), Bundesverband Solarindustrie (BSi), Consolar GmbH, Ecofys BV, Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne EPFL, Energy Research Centre of Netherlands (ECN), European Solar Thermal Industry Federation (ESTIF), Higher Technical Institute, Institut für Wärmetechnik, Italian Agency for New Technology, Energy and the Environment (ENEA), Kassel University, Institute of Thermal Engineering, Solar and Systems Engineering KBB Kollektorbau GmbH, Paradigma Energie- und Umwelttechnik GmbH & Co. KG, Politecnico di Milano (Dip. Energetica), Schott, Schüco International, Sociedad Para El Desarrollo Energético de Andalucía (Sodean), Solar Energy Research Center SERC. Dalarna University College, Solar- und Wärmetechnik Stuttgart (SWT), SP Sveriges Provnings- och Forskningsinstitut, Sustainable Energy - Ireland's Renewable Energy Information Office, Technical University of Denmark/Department of Civil Engineering, TNO Building and Geosciences, University of Stuttgart, Institut für Thermodynamik und Wärmetechnik (ITW), Vaillant Group, Viessmann Werke GmbH & Co. KG, Wagner & Co Solartechnik GMBH

The ESTTP was initiated by Harald Drück (ITW, University of Stuttgart), Gerhard Stryi-Hipp (BSi/ESTIF), Werner Weiss (AAE-Intec) and Volker Wittwer (Fraunhofer ISE)

******* letter of support, please fax to +49 761 4588 9116 *******

We herewith declare that we support the foundation of a European Solar Thermal Technology Platform (ESTTP) as outlined in the "EXTRACTS FROM EUROPEAN COMMISSION COMMUNICATIONS REGARDING TECHNOLOGY PLATFORMS" COM(2003) 226 final.

Manufacturer/Institution _____

Contact person, position _____

Address _____

Tel, Fax _____

Email _____

Date, signature _____