



Background Information on the ESTTP:

Technology Platforms are seen as a very important instrument with which to influence the future development of a technology. In order to strengthen the pan European understanding and development of solar thermal technology, especially within the EU's 7th Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development, an Initiator Group has been working towards a European Solar Thermal Technology Platform (ESTTP) since the beginning of 2005.

The ESTTP Initiator Group was founded by several active members of both the European Solar Thermal Industry Association ([ESTIF](#)) and the European Renewable Energy Centres Agency ([EUREC Agency](#)), both of which strongly support the platform.

The Initiator Group created a structure for the platform and together, with several experts from all over Europe, developed a draft for a solar thermal vision document for 2030. After the first presentation of these activities at the estec2005 conference in Freiburg, the EU Commissioner for Energy, Andris Piebalgs, wrote the group, encouraging them to establish the platform. In addition, the group received very positive feedback from ministries in several member states, especially from Germany and Austria, all of whom announced support for the ESTTP. The platform was officially launched on 30 May 2006 in Brussels. On this occasion, Andris Piebalgs gave an inspirational speech announcing his continued support for the platform.

Purpose of the ESTTP

- Strengthen awareness of the huge potential that solar thermal technologies have in contributing to a sustainable energy system
- Increase R&D activities in the solar thermal sector
- Accelerate the development of solar thermal technology
- Pave the way for the wide-spread deployment of advanced solar thermal technologies

Objectives of the ESTTP

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