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[estec2007 - Deadline Early Bird Special Rate on May 07, 2007](#)



www.estec2007.org

estec2007 will be the most important event of 2007 for the solar thermal sector worldwide. The new directive from the European Union, which is under development, the activities of the European Solar Thermal Technology Platform, ESTTP, and the strong market growth reaching 80% in France and 60% in Spain, Germany and UK shows the fast growing interest in solar thermal energy. estec2007 will present information about solar thermal markets worldwide, as well as policy and technological developments.

Please take advantage of our Early Bird discounted price before May 7th! Register online today at www.estec2007.org/registration and save 100 Euro.

Additional reduced fees are available for:

- o Direct ESTIF members
- o Students

A high-profile programme has been put together by the programme committee, details of which can be found under www.estec2007.org/programme.

This year's conference dinner will take place at the stadium of the local soccer team, SC Freiburg. The conference dinner offers an ideal opportunity for networking and for you to exchange your opinions and experiences with other participants and speakers in a relaxed atmosphere. There will be a short introduction about the history of the soccer club, combined with a short tour of the area and anyone who feels that some action is needed can try to score a goal through the soccer wall. The price for participation is 40 €, -.

For more information, please visit www.estec2007.org

[ESTTP-Workshop on the Morning of 19th June](#)



European Solar Thermal Technology Platform

Last year, the European solar thermal industry federation (ESTIF) launched the European Solar Thermal Technology Platform (ESTTP). Experts from across Europe have been working together to develop a common vision for solar thermal technology for 2030. Their task is to work out a research programme to reach this goal, and to draft a strategy for the future development of the European solar thermal markets.

3 focus groups and 12 working groups were founded to tackle this assignment. The preliminary results will be presented by the focus group "Solar Thermal Systems for Industrial Processes and Refrigeration" before the opening of the estec2007 conference, on the morning of June 19th, in Freiburg.

For further information, please visit www.estec2007.org

[France to Focus on Quality](#)



Source: Enerplan

The support programme "Plan Soleil" marked the beginning of France's solar thermal industry boom. Since then, a total of 315 MWth (450,000 square metres of collector surface area) have been installed. A rapid development compared to the just 21.7 MWth (31,000 square metres) of installed capacity at the turn of the millennium. More important than mere numbers – according to Richard Loyer of the French solar industry association,

ENERPLAN – is the fact that solar thermal has become a professional industrial sector –with more than 9.000 qualified installers.–

Conjointly with the Plan Soleil, ADEME, the governmental energy agency, has started the qualification programme –Qualisol– to educate craftsmen in the professional installation of solar thermal systems. The newly founded organisation –Qualit EnR– has been offering training sessions since January 2006. The founders are ENERPLAN, craftsmen associations and the renewable energy association, SER. –There is a tremendous need for well-trained installers in the industry, as it is planned that the same number of solar collectors will be installed in 2007 that were installed the last six years altogether–, says Richard Loyen, who will present the Qualisol Programme at estec2007.

For further information, please visit www.estec2007.org

Guaranteed Solar Results Help Develop Markets in Eastern Europe



Balchik, Bulgaria, solar collectors on the roof of a hotel

Since its start on the 1st of January 2006, the 36 month EAST-GSR project has aimed to encourage the emergence of a sustainable solar thermal market in Bulgaria, Poland, Romania, the Slovak Republic and Slovenia by taking advantage of the Guaranteed Solar Results (GSR) quality approach. Experiences from Austria, France, Germany and Greece will help this process along.

Analyses of the current situation of the national solar thermal markets and development perspectives in each East European partner country are almost finalised, as are the GSR Charter adaptations. The according reports will soon be available on the project website. Several existing sites have already been identified and one site per country will be selected as pilot project in order to implement a telemonitoring system. The performance follow up should prove the reliability of the system and should in turn increase public confidence in solar thermal technologies. The next step is to complete pre-feasibility studies on potential new sites.

As one of the key issues is to promote the GSR quality concept approach, proactive networking, training activities and the dissemination of information are organised in order to strengthen the confidence of all concerned stakeholders and to attract potential new clients and investors.

For further information, please visit www.solareast-gsr.net

Survey Concerning Standardized Concepts for Solar Thermal Systems



Source: Sonnenkraft Vertriebs GmbH

Concepts for hydraulic systems in solar thermal installations with an output of more than 35 kW (50 square metres of collector surface area) have been studied by the EU-project NEGST. During the European Solar Thermal Energy Conference estec2007, the project coordinator Jan Schindl of the Austrian research centre, arsenal research, will present the results collected by the experts within NEGST.

For this project, good practice systems in Austria, Germany, Greece, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain and Sweden were examined and experts were interviewed regarding their experience with various system concepts.

Although quality control measures have been identified as indispensable for long-term market development, the study also shows that they are hardly in place. NEGST will therefore present selected solutions that have been proposed. Additionally, the project will provide a collection of technical guidelines and field reports.

Imprint and Contact Information
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