



PRESS RELEASE

European Solar Thermal Industry Federation publishes comprehensive study on solar thermal markets

Large Growth Potential for Solar Thermal in Europe

Brussels, 26 May 2003. Today the European Solar Thermal Industry Federation (ESTIF) published “Sun in Action II – a Solar Thermal Strategy for Europe”. Built on the analyses of 21 national markets, this study identifies reasons for success and barriers to growth. ESTIF proposes concrete measures to support solar thermal.

“Solar thermal has grown by 11,7% per year over the past decade. And still the technical potential for this clean technology is largely untapped”, says ESTIF president Ole Pilgaard. “We estimate that 1,4 billion m² of solar thermal collectors could be installed in the EU. This is 100 times more than the current capacity of roughly 14 million m². In *Sun in Action II*, we propose a detailed action plan to help Europe realise this vast potential and thus reduce our dependence on fossil fuels, nuclear power and imported energy.”

The action plan takes into account the specifics of the various market segments. For the most important one – the residential sector – ESTIF proposes binding regulations requiring the use of solar thermal for domestic water heating. “Barcelona and several Spanish municipalities are implementing such regulations with great success”, says Raffaele Piria, Secretary General of ESTIF. “Financial incentives to investment, raising awareness among potential users, focused promotion campaigns and development of market structures are further important instruments to promote solar thermal.”

Sun in Action II shows that solar thermal installations are so far highly concentrated in three countries: Germany, Greece and Austria account for more than 80% of the total capacity in the EU. In relation to its population, Greece is the solar thermal leader in Europe (264 m² collector per 1.000 capita) with Austria in second place (203 m²). But the study also shows that countries like Spain, Italy and France have started to catch up.

A presentation of the key results of *Sun in Action II* will be held at the first European Solar Thermal Energy Conference, estec2003, which will take place on 26 and 27 June 2003 in Freiburg, Germany.

“Solar thermal systems are efficient and highly reliable”, says Mr Pilgaard, “they provide clean solar energy for a wide range of applications, from domestic hot water to space heating, from solar cooling to industrial process heat”.

Action plan to realise the vast potential of solar thermal

Binding regulation would make a huge impact

Solar thermal usage still very concentrated in 3 countries

estec2003

A wide range of reliable applications for solar heating and cooling

Additional Notes:

Sun in Action II – a Solar Thermal Strategy for Europe is published by the European Solar Thermal Industry Federation (ESTIF). The study was co-financed by the European Commission under its ALTENER program.

Sun in Action II consists of two separate volumes: Volume 1 analyses in depth the European solar thermal market, identifies reasons for success and barriers to growth and proposes concrete measures to promote solar thermal. Volume 2 contains 21 national market reports. Both volumes are available for download from <http://www.estif.org/11.0.html>.

ESTIF, the European Solar Thermal Industry Federation, represents manufacturers, national associations and service providers active in the solar thermal sector. It was created in December 2002, as a result of the merger of the previously existing European associations ASTIG and ESIF.

ESTIF's mission is to achieve high priority and acceptance for solar thermal as a key element for sustainable heating and cooling in Europe and to work for the implementation, as soon as possible, of all steps necessary to realise the high potential of solar thermal.

For additional information on ESTIF visit our website at www.estif.org

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Further information:

ESTIF - European Solar Thermal Industry Federation

President: Mr. Ole Pilgaard
Tel: +45 45 164030
Fax: +45 45 164575
e-mail: opa.sun@velux.com

Brussels Secretariat
Secretary General: Mr. Raffaele Piria
Renewable Energy House
26, Rue du Trone
B-1000 Bruxelles
Tel: +32 2 546 1938
Fax: +32 2 546 1944
e-mail: info@estif.org

Web: www.estif.org