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Editorial:



Dear Members and stakeholders of the RHC-Platform

The last few months have been very busy but productive.

First of all, I am pleased to report that **the four Technology Roadmaps of the Platform** are either at a very advanced stage or finalized. I would really like to warmly thank all the Members who have contributed to drafting and improving the Roadmaps.

The Technology Roadmaps build on the Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda for Renewable Heating and Cooling published earlier this year. They represent a very important input for prioritizing the allocation of R&D resources under "Horizon 2020". (For more information, see news from the different panels). The next step is the

Seasons Greetings

integration, in the near future, of the four Technology Roadmaps into a single shared Roadmap for all Renewable Heating and Cooling technologies.

At the same time, we are fully involved in the **SET-Plan Integrated Roadmap** (see also page 3). The European Commission launched this initiative in May of this year and invited all energy technologies (not solely renewable energies) to contribute to a complex process for the development of the Integrated Roadmap. The aim is to identify key research and innovation actions to be undertaken within the next six years, towards "Horizon 2020". We must make sure that the importance of renewable heating and cooling technologies is fully taken into consideration in the development of the European energy system.

During the year, the European Commission reviewed the concept of technology platforms and requested all platforms to submit new applications. We are very pleased to inform you, that the RHC-Platform has again been recognised by the European Commission as a European Technology Platform (ETP) within the context of the upcoming "Strategy for European Technology Platform ETP 2020". This is indeed an important acknowledgement of the work accomplished so far and also a sign that awareness is increasing for our Platform and its messages, thanks to its more than 750 Members.

However, new challenges for the RHC-platform lie ahead and the board is discussing the further development of the platform structure. After finalizing the

roadmaps, we will enter into the implementation phase and this requires a stronger engagement from the European RHC industry. As a basis for this discussion, it is crucial to understand more precisely how you, the Members, can benefit from the **future activities of the Platform**. We are ready to further improve the services the Platform offers its members to ease the burden of future involvement from its members in the research and industry sectors. That is why I warmly encourage you to send us your feedback as to which activities you feel the Platform should perform in support of the heating and cooling sector (*please take the time to complete the survey, just click on the box below, thank you in anticipation*).

Last but not least, I must inform you, that Simone Landolina, who led the platform secretariat over the years and strongly contributed to its success, has left us to work for one year at the IEA in Paris. On behalf of the platform I should like to thank him warmly for his great commitment and wish him a lot of success for his future. We are pleased to inform you that, last October, EUREC appointed Alessandro Provaggi to coordinate the RHC-Platform secretariat.

With my very best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Gerhard Stryi-Hipp
President
European Technology Platform

What are the services and activities you would like the RHC-Platform to offer in the coming years?

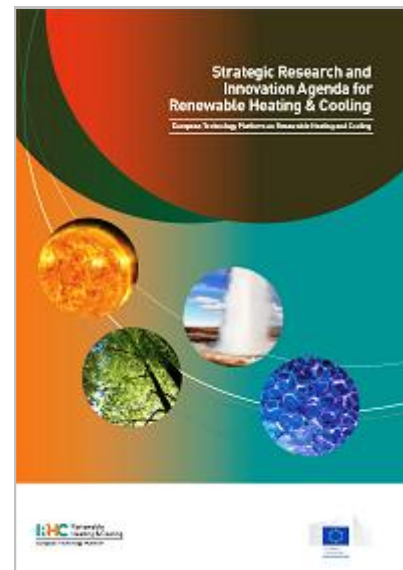
Please click here to complete the survey - thank you!



Integrated Roadmap for the EU SET-Plan

The European Commission has initiated a process with the view to define a European Strategic Energy Technology Plan (SET-Plan) Integrated Roadmap. The main goal is to combine the different roadmaps for the technologies included in the SET-Plan into one integrated roadmap that would facilitate the definition of priorities related to Research and Innovation over the coming years.

The development of the Roadmap is undertaken in consultation with representatives of the relevant technology platforms, including the RHC-Platform. These representatives participate in the coordination group, in charge of the main structure and overall content of the document, and in the working groups that are developing the different sections of the document. The main objective of their work, which has been done in cooperation with the different panels of the RHC-Platform, has been to put forward the proposals from the four Strategic Research Priorities developed by each panel, as well as the RHC-Platform Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda.



At this stage, the work is focused on three parts of the roadmap: Energy Efficiency (Part I); Competitive, efficient, secure, sustainable and flexible energy system (Part II) and Innovation in Real Environments, Market Uptake (Part III). Currently, the RHC representatives are involved in some of the most relevant headings under these three main chapters, in particular the heading on “Increasing energy efficiency in combination with renewables energy use in heating and cooling” (Wolfram Sparber – Cross-cutting Panel) and the heading on “Making renewable electricity and heating/cooling technologies competitive by 2020 and beyond” (Rainer Janssen - Biomass panel)

This work will continue throughout the early part of 2014. This process represents an important phase in shaping the Research and innovation strategy of the European Commission over the coming years. The main challenge faced by the RHC-Platform representatives has been to ensure that this document reflects the significant role of Renewable Heating and Cooling technologies, so that they are guaranteed adequate provisions in the Roadmap.

Based on a proposal from the RHC-Platform, the European Commission is revising the proposed headings for Renewable Heating and Cooling, in order to better reflect the relevance of the sector.

For more information, please contact the secretariat of the RHC-Platform at info@rhc-platform.org





News from the Solar Thermal Technology Panel

The past few months have proved hectic for the European Solar Thermal Technology Panel, working on both the implementation of the Solar Thermal Strategic Research Priorities and the RHC-Platform Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda. This implementation work has been split three ways: developing the Solar Thermal Technology Roadmap; contributing to the SET-Plan Integrated Roadmap promoted by the European Commission, and influencing the Horizon 2020 Work Programme for 2014 and 2015.

Work is still ongoing on the final document on the development of the Solar Thermal Technology Roadmap. It will focus on three main solar thermal solutions for the important 2020 societal challenges: solar heat for industrial processes; solar compact hybrid heating systems for retrofitting needs and the solar active house towards the Nearly-Zero Energy Buildings. These three main solutions will be discussed with relevant stakeholders, e.g. on **22 January 2014 at a dedicated validation workshop taking place in Brussels** ([more info here](#)).

Input to the SET-Pan Integrated Roadmap was provided within the framework of the RHC-Platform representation on the groups set up by the EC to work on the topic. The ESTTP will continue its active participation in the process over the coming months.

Finally the ESTTP was also active in trying to influence the draft of the Horizon 2020 Work Programme for 2020. The initial versions were of great concern for solar thermal. Thanks to the commitment of several ESTTP members, who raised awareness at national level to gain support for the solar thermal proposals, mindsets were changed and some proposals taken on board. Nevertheless, the relevance of the Heating and Cooling sector is still largely ignored in the Research and Innovation programmes of the European Commission. The latest version of this document can be found [here](#).

For more information please contact Pedro Dias: pedro.dias@estif.org



News from the Geothermal Technology Panel

The Geothermal Panel of the RHC-Technology Platform will publish its Geothermal Technology Roadmap online in December 2013, allowing us to implement the Strategic Research Priorities for our Geothermal Vision.

We are now entering the final phase of the implementation of the RHC platform's shared research agenda. As we move from the FP7 programme to Horizon 2020, the work of the Geothermal panel will be crucial to underline the important role Geothermal energy will play to answer challenges of the building sector and especially retrofitting/renovating and to provide affordable energy to make the industry more competitive.

The next workshop of the geothermal panel will be held on 16 January 2014 in Brussels. This meeting will be an excellent opportunity to learn more about Horizon 2020 and the future call for projects which will be published early in 2013.

The first half of the meeting will also be spent discussing the most important issues in the roadmap and looking at the next steps.

In the afternoon the group will divide into two sessions for deep and shallow geothermal. The deep session will be a roundtable between scientists and the industry for better understanding on induced seismicity. For shallow geothermal a b2b meeting will be held helping participants to develop project ideas and build consortia.

On the Agenda

- Overview of Horizon 2020
- Presentation of the 2014-2015 work programme
- Calls for proposals relating to Geothermal
- A look at the work of the Geothermal Panel- past and future
- Workshop on Induced seismicity
- Business opportunities for shallow geothermal.

More information [here](#)



News from the Biomass Technology Panel

The Biomass Technology Panel is finalizing its Biomass Technology Roadmap which identifies the actions and milestones needed to implement the strategic research priorities in the short-term (up to 2020). To ensure projects adopt a holistic approach, research priorities have been integrated into value chains – considering the entire supply chain from biomass sourcing to final conversion.

Over the last months, the Steering Committee of the Biomass Technology Panel has deployed significant efforts to involve key stakeholders in the drafting of this document, in particular experts from industry. As a result wide consultation, industry players and other stakeholders have confirmed their support to the Biomass Technology Roadmap and provided valuable input their priorities and needs.

On 29 October 2013, the Biomass Technology Panel held an Industry Validation workshop in Brussels to discuss the Roadmap with key industrial actors and to showcase the industry's readiness to engage in research and innovation projects for biomass heating and cooling technologies. In the first part of this meeting, a series of presentations elaborated on the RHC-Platform and on the RD&D financing options for heating and cooling with biomass. The workshop then featured three dedicated sessions to present and discuss different implementation actions of the draft Biomass Technology Roadmap. Participants were subsequently invited to give their feedback in an interactive roundtable discussion. The presentations and the minutes of this workshop are available in the Members section of the RHC-Platform website.



News from the Cross-cutting Technology Panel

The Cross-cutting Technology Roadmap is finalized. it was officially validated by the Steering Committee of the Cross-cutting Panel (CCP) on 27 November.

We invite you to consult it at:
www.rhc-platform.org.

A sincere thanks to all who were engaged in drafting and improving the Roadmap.

In the last two months the effort to finalize the Roadmap has been quite intense:

- On 14 October, the European Heat Pumps Associations and the CCP of the RHC Platform organized a joint workshop in Nürnberg, Germany.
- On 5 November a web meeting, open to Members interested in the Cross-cutting technology, focused on the hybrid systems and the generic impact of RHC application in the residential sector.

In the meantime, the Roadmap has gone through a process of open consultation.

Furthermore, many large companies, SME, research centres and universities have decided to endorse the Roadmap. As at the beginning of December, we have received over thirty letters of supports and around sixty expressions of interest from different European organizations. This is a very good signal of the industry and R&D commitment to the implementation actions described in the Roadmap. If you also want to endorse the Roadmap, please click on the link [here](#) for the Roadmap and follow the instructions.

Giving solar energy its right place within District Heating and Cooling



District Heating and Cooling (DHC) responds to the climate change challenge by integrating more renewable energy sources into its flexible systems and therefore providing green heating and cooling to its customers.

Between the different renewables which can be used in DHC, solar has a special place. Solar energy is available everywhere, without needs of production and/or a transportation chain.

The combination of DHC with solar thermal technologies represents a mature solution which has been used for over 20 years in Europe. However, raising awareness regarding this efficient combination of technologies is still needed in order to reach its huge potential.

The 'SDHPlus' project aims to achieve a commercial market rollout of solar DHC in Europe by: creating cooperation of market actors, transferring know-how, developing and implementing new business models and marketing strategies. Furthermore, it is worth mentioning the organisation of dedicated workshops on Solar District Heating (the next one being held in Hamburg on 3 and 4 June 2014) and the set-up of a SDH data base of professionals.

Find out more on the project website: www.solar-district-heating.eu

Forthcoming events

- **16 January 2014**

Meeting of the Geothermal Technology Panel
Brussels (BE)

- **22 January 2014**

Validation Workshop of the Solar Thermal Technology Panel
Brussels (BE)

Publisher

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