



## Inside this issue

Editorial	1/2
The RHC Platform to prepare input for Public Consultation on Energy Technologies	2
2013 European Conference on Renewable Heating and Cooling	3
RHC-Platform launches a consultation on its SRA	4
News from Solar Thermal Technology Panel	5
News from Geothermal Technology Panel	5
News from Biomass Technology Panel	6
News from Cross-cutting Technology Panel	6
Research and Innovation: Commission widens search for expert advisors for Horizon 2020	7
Forthcoming events	7

Dear Members and Supporters of the RHC-Platform

There is growing awareness of the urgent need to turn our Vision into concrete renewable heating and cooling projects.

Two years ago in its first ever official publication, the RHC-Platform outlined both the theoretical and technical potential of renewable energy sources and showed that, by 2020, they could cover a quarter of the EU heating consumption. However, the Common Vision report also pointed out that making such a potential economically viable remains an outstanding challenge.

Today, the RHC-Platform is about to launch its Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda. A comprehensive document that explores the R&D areas which should be prioritised to realise the potential of biomass, geothermal, solar thermal and cross-cutting technologies. Members of the RHC-Platform have until 10 March 2013 to review and provide comments on this report which has been drafted by a group of dedicated experts in close collaboration with the Board of the RHC-Platform.

No doubt, research, development and demonstration will be uppermost in the minds of the high-level speakers and delegates at the 4th European Conference on Renewable Heating and Cooling, taking place in Dublin on the 22-23 April 2013.

[Continued on page 2...](#)

This event is organized by the RHC-Platform in association with the Irish Presidency of the Council of the EU, and is co-financed by the European Commission. With over 200 participants expected from all over Europe, the event has become the largest annual gathering of its kind and provides a unique opportunity for learning, knowledge sharing, networking and discussion around RHC technologies.

In this issue of the newsletter we also take a look at the public consultation on 'Energy Technologies and Innovation' currently carried out by the European Commission. European energy technology policy is stronger with the SET-Plan than it would be without it. Some of the new initiatives put in place by the Plan have been successful; however, the continuing relevance of ETPs should not be overlooked. Renewable Heating and Cooling should take centre stage on a par with renewable electricity technology in the new mid-century energy race.

I look forward to meeting you in Dublin and wish you an enjoyable reading.



*Simone Landolina*

*EUREC Agency  
Coordinator of the RHC-Platform Secretariat*

## The RHC Platform to prepare input for the Public Consultation on Energy Technologies

On 20 December 2012, the European Commission launched a public consultation on 'Energy Technologies and Innovation', as a first step towards the publication of a communication on the issue during the first half of 2013. The communication will set a long-term strategy up to 2050, including measures concerning technology and non-technology aspects in order to advance towards a low-carbon economy. It will contribute to the priorities of the "Energy Challenge" of "Horizon 2020" which, according to the latest Commission's proposal, will double its funding compared with FP7.

The consultation is about the priorities areas for support, the major bottlenecks for the implementation of industrial demonstration projects and the adequate balance between research and demonstration activities. It also covers the appropriate non-technological or market uptake measures (newly added under Intelligent Energy Europe) which can hamper or foster the development of energy technologies.

Stakeholders can also comment on the types of financing instruments appropriate for different types of activities, on aspects related to the international dimension or on the satisfaction with initiatives such as the European Energy Research Alliance (EERA) and the European Industrial Initiatives (EII) of the SET-Plan.

As a complement to its response to the online consultation, which will be open until 15 March 2013, the RHC-Platform is preparing a policy paper on the role of Renewable Heating and Cooling technologies in the SET Plan. In this context, the upcoming Joint Strategic Research Agenda and Implementation Roadmaps should serve as the basis for full recognition and integration of our technologies in the European Energy Strategy.

To increase both our visibility and influence, individual organizations from the Renewable Heating and Cooling sector are invited to participate in the online consultation.

If you wish to share your comments and ideas with the RHC-Secretariat, please email [info@rhc-platform.org](mailto:info@rhc-platform.org).

Online questionnaire at: [www.ec.europa.eu](http://www.ec.europa.eu).



## 4<sup>th</sup> European Conference on Renewable Heating & Cooling 22-23 April 2013 Dublin Ireland

**RHC** Renewable  
Heating & Cooling  
European Technology Platform

IN ASSOCIATION WITH  eu2013.ie



Following the resounding successes of the previous three editions, the 4th European Conference on Renewable Heating and Cooling is set to be the best opportunity in 2013 to meet high-profile policy makers and leading experts in renewable energy technologies for heating and cooling.

The highlights of the conference will be the launch of the new Strategic Research Agenda for Renewable Heating and Cooling and the debate on the subsequent Implementation Roadmap. During three plenary and seven parallel sessions, conference delegates will participate in defining which research, development and demonstration projects are best suited for the implementation of the SRA until 2020, and, therefore, best placed to receive support under the forthcoming framework programme “Horizon 2020” of the European Commission.

Confirmed keynote speakers include:

- Pat Rabbitte, TD, Ireland’s Minister for Communications, Energy & Natural Resources
- Marie Donnelly, Director of New and Renewable Sources of Energy, Energy Efficiency and Innovation, DG Energy, European Commission
- Paolo Frankl, Head of Renewable Energy Division, International Energy Agency
- Sean O’Driscoll, CEO, Glen Dimplex

The 4th European Conference on Renewable Heating and Cooling will be the occasion to plot the course toward widespread deployment of renewable heating and cooling technologies and discuss the challenges to achieve this objective.

Check the complete [Preliminary Programme](#) and [register now](#) at early bird rate!

**Do not miss this chance to shape the future of your industry!**

### Key Information

#### Registration & website:

[www.rhc-platform.org/conference2013](http://www.rhc-platform.org/conference2013)

**Dates:** 22 and 23 April 2013

**Venue:** Convention Centre Dublin  
Spencer Dock, North Wall Quay  
Dublin 1, Ireland

*The RHC-Platform holds this annual conference with the financial support of the European Commission and in association with the Irish Presidency of the Council of the EU.*

**T**he Convention Centre Dublin (CCD) was selected as the ideal location for this year’s conference as Ireland took over the Presidency of the EU from January 2013.

*This impressive building near the city centre, along the banks of the River Liffey, is the world’s first carbon neutral built convention centre and is committed to long-term environmental sustainability.*



## RHC-Platform launches a consultation on its SRA

To achieve the [Common Vision](#), the RHC-Platform has produced a new publication with high policy relevance: the Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda for Renewable Heating and Cooling (RHC-SRA). This document addresses the short, medium and longer term R&D needs in the field of renewable heating and cooling technologies and puts together the strategic research priorities identified for Biomass, Geothermal, Solar Thermal and Cross Cutting Technologies.

Market growth depends heavily on technological advances, as well as on the regulatory and policy framework. The implementation of the SRA technological and non-technological priorities will, therefore, be crucial for a strong push towards a renewable energy paradigm, providing European citizens with affordable and sustainable heating and cooling.

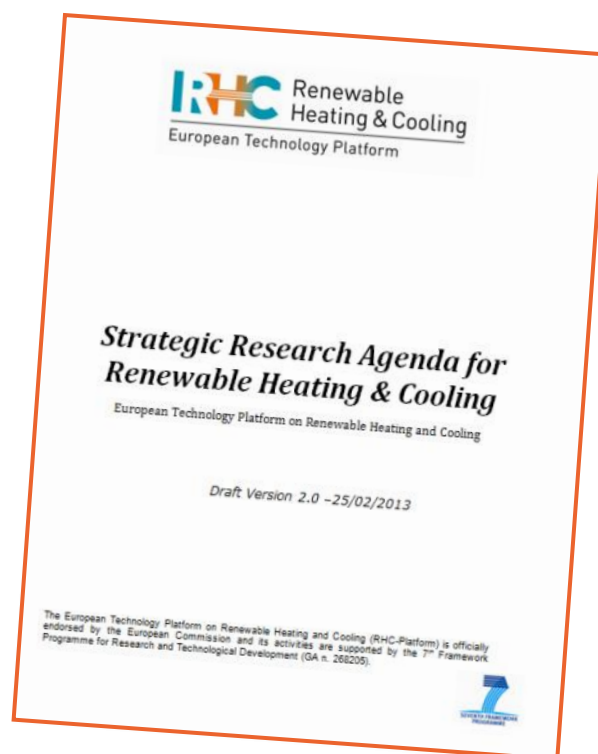
The SRA sets out the likely directions for technological and organisational changes that will need to be converted into specific research activities over the next years, starting from Horizon 2020, and the next EU framework programme for research and innovation (2014-2020). We believe that innovation will be nurtured by consistent policy and appropriate funding. The EU and its Member States should allocate enough resources to scientific research and technological developments, so that the performance and efficiency targets outlined in the SRA can be achieved.

This vision report was prepared by the Horizontal Working Group on RHC-SRA of the RHC-Platform, with additional inputs from sectors' specialists where relevant. The final paper version of the RHC-SRA is expected to be presented at the 2013 Annual Conference (22-23 April, Dublin).

In order to validate the RHC-SRA, a consultation is open to all Members and Stakeholders of the European Technology Platform on Renewable Heating and Cooling. You are invited to express your views on the draft RHC-SRA which will be available as of 25 February in the "Members only" section of the website, accessible from the home page [www.rhc-platform.org](http://www.rhc-platform.org) with individual Login and Password.

Comments and recommendations should be provided using the consultation form and sent via email to the Secretariat of the RHC-Platform ([info@rhc-platform.org](mailto:info@rhc-platform.org)) by **10 March 2013**.

*Please always back your proposed revisions by including references to the relevant literature / scientific studies.*





## News from the Solar Thermal Technology Panel

The launch of the publication “Strategic Research Priorities for Solar Thermal cross-cutting technology” is a milestone in the work of the ESTTP. This document is the outcome of the joint effort from ESTTP members. Building on the first edition of the SRA, complemented by insights and inputs from recent national SRAs developed in countries such as Germany and Austria, it has been consolidated by contributions from a large number of solar thermal experts from all over Europe. It is the most up-to-date overview of crucial solar thermal R&D priorities and is, therefore, a very important basis for the development of the solar thermal sector. The next challenge will be to put it into practice and such effort will require the important contribution from the members of the ESTTP. A broad dissemination, together with the development of an implementation roadmap are the next steps. Both topics will be addressed during the solar thermal panel at the RHC Annual Conference that will take place the 22-23 April, in Dublin.

The Steering Committee (SC) of the European Solar Thermal Technology Panel (ESTTP) of the RHC-Platform held its fourth meeting of 2012, which took place in Brussels, on 4 December. This meeting focused mainly on the finalisation of the SRP (Strategic Research Priorities), the contribution to the Shared Strategic Research Agenda of the RHC sector and on a thorough debate about the costs of solar thermal applications in Europe, namely the costs of the energy produced in comparison with conventional fuels. The results of this debate are reflected both in the SRP and the SRA. The next meeting of the ESTTP Steering Committee will take place in Brussels, on 14 March.

On 15 March, the ESTTP organises a technology workshop on “Solar Process Heat for Industry”. During this workshop, the latest developments in this field will be presented and illustrated with some ongoing demonstration projects. The programme is available [here](#).

For more information please contact: Pedro Dias, [pedro.dias@estif.org](mailto:pedro.dias@estif.org).



## News from the Geothermal Technology Panel

### Next meeting of the Geothermal Panel, 23.04.2013

The next meeting of the Geothermal Technology panel will take place in Dublin on 23 April 2013 during the next RHC Conference.

This meeting will provide an excellent opportunity to learn more about the recent market developments in geothermal heating and cooling. Moreover, the panel will discuss ways of introducing geothermal into juvenile geothermal markets by identifying key technological barriers, and the integration of geothermal technologies into Smart cities.

The second part of the meeting will be a Validation workshop of the Geothermal Roadmap. Guest Speakers and Moderators will be invited to lead a workshop discussion in which all attendees are encouraged to participate actively.

### Towards an Implementation roadmap for Geothermal Strategic Research Priorities.

In order to prepare the geothermal implementation roadmap the panel firstly reviewed, during a meeting in September 2012, the results of different ongoing/recently achieved geothermal R&D projects in Europe for both shallow and deep geothermal.

Two working groups (one for shallow geothermal and one for deep geothermal) have been created in order to draft the implementation roadmap of the Geothermal Strategic Research Priorities (SRP).

The implementation roadmap aims at describing how the Panel plans to achieve its targets (activities and projects), its vision for the development of the sector, and the Strategic Research Priorities.

A first draft will be published in March 2013. A consultation period will follow, allowing everybody to comment on this document. The revision process will end at the validation workshop on the roadmap organised on 23 April 2013.



## News from the Biomass Technology Panel

The Biomass Panel of the RHC-Platform is now engaging in the implementation phase, which aims to unlock funding for the Strategic Research Priorities for Biomass Technology.

In order to adequately take into account the different aspects of the supply chain, the Biomass Panel Steering Committee decided to integrate the Strategic Research Priorities into different *value chains*:

- Cost and energy efficient, environmentally friendly small scale CHP
- Development of high efficient biomass conversion systems for tri-generation (heating, cooling and power)
- Advanced fuels (new solid biocommodities, thermally treated biomass fuels, pyrolysis oil) replacing coal and fossil oil in CHP
- High efficient large-scale or industrial steam CHP with enhanced availability and increased high temperature heat potential (up to 600°C)

Two horizontal topics cover the entire scope of the *value chains* above:

- Demonstration of optimized and integrated regional concepts (including smart grids) in several European countries
- Hybrid systems

In their last meeting on 10 October 2012 in Berlin, the Biomass Issue Group leaders defined specific working groups to further elaborate the *value chains* listed above.

Each working group will involve leading industrial players in their work. The final aim is to build transnational consortiums for innovative biomass-to-heat projects in the field of these value chains.

Join us to discuss the implementation of the *value chains* at the 4th European Conference on Renewable Heating and Cooling in Dublin on 22-23 April 2013.



## News from the Cross-Cutting Technology Panel

Looking through the draft RHC-SRA, one can see the significant number of research priorities for cross-cutting technology. This is a reflection of the significant role of district heating and cooling, thermal energy storage, hybrid systems and heat pumps in the ongoing discussion about the implementation of the RHC-Platform's vision.

In the first quarter of 2013, the top priority for the Cross-Cutting Panel Steering Committee (CCP SC) 2013 is to move forward with the Implementation Roadmap.

The Steering Committee will convene in Brussels on the 11 March 2013 to discuss the next steps and, in particular, how to engage industry and draw support from a broad range of public and private funding sources.

Energy storage is more and more at the forefront of EU and international energy technology policy debate. Luisa F. Cabeza, Leader of the CCP Focus Group on Thermal Energy Storage, has been appointed by the Board as representative of the RHC-Platform within the group of experts asked by the European Commission to draft a set of recommendations on a European "Energy Storage Technology Roadmap towards 2030".

Simone Landolina and Luisa F. Cabeza also participated, on behalf of the RHC-Platform, in the "Initial Stakeholder Engagement Workshop" organised on 13 and 14 February 2013 by the International Energy Agency in preparation for the upcoming IEA Energy Storage Technology Roadmap.

In both cases, the RHC-Platform representatives face the challenging task to make the case for TES in a debate which is still largely dominated by electricity storage.

## Research and Innovation: Commission widens search for expert advisors for Horizon 2020

The European Commission has launched a call for expression of interest from experts in connection with Horizon 2020, the European Union's future funding programme for research and innovation.

For the first time the Commission has launched such a call in connection with its research programme.

Advisory groups will be set up to provide high quality and timely advice for the preparation of the Horizon 2020 calls for project proposals.

Read all about it [here](#).

The expert advisory groups will start work during spring this year to provide advice in time for the first Horizon 2020 calls, expected to be launched by the end of the year. Experts interested to join the first advisory groups have until 6 March 2013 at 17:00 (Brussels local time) to register.

The Secretariat of the RHC-Platform recommends that all its Members consider this opportunity and apply to make sure that the needs and priorities of renewable heating and cooling technologies are adequately addressed in Horizon 2020.

The full text and guidance on how to register can be found [here](#).

*Horizon 2020 aims at bringing together all existing support for research and innovation, including the innovation-related activities of the Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme and the activities of the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT), into one single funding programme.*

*The European Commission initially proposed a 80 billion Euro budget for Horizon 2020 (2014-2020); however, the European Council seems determined to cut about 10 billion Euro.*

Read more [here](#).

## Forthcoming events

- **11 March 2013**  
Meeting of the Cross Cutting Technology Panel  
Brussels (BE)
- **14 March 2013**  
Steering Committee meeting of the Solar Thermal Technology Panel  
Brussels (BE)
- **15 March 2013**  
Technology Workshop on Solar Process Heat for Industry  
Brussels (BE)
- **22 & 23 April 2013**  
RHC-Platform Annual Conference  
Dublin (IE)
- **23 April 2013**  
Parallel Meetings of the Geothermal, Biomass and Solar Thermal Panels.  
Dublin (IE)
- **22 May 2013**  
RHC-Platform Board Meeting  
Brussels (BE)
- **27 & 28 May 2013**  
36th Euroheat & Power Congress  
[www.ehpcongress.org](http://www.ehpcongress.org)  
Vienna (AT)



### Publisher

**RHC** Renewable  
Heating & Cooling  
European Technology Platform

RHC-Platform Secretariat

c/o EUREC Agency  
Renewable Energy House  
Rue d'Arlon 63-67  
B-1040 Brussels

Belgium  
Tel: +32 2 546 1943  
Fax : +32 2 546 1934  
Email: [info@rhc-platform.org](mailto:info@rhc-platform.org)

Website: [www.rhc-platform.org](http://www.rhc-platform.org)