



Inside this issue

Editorial by Gerhard Stryi-Hipp	1/2
News from the Solar Thermal Panel	3
News from the Geothermal Panel	3
News from the Biomass Panel	3
News from the Cross-Cutting Panel	3
Two major workshops	4
Start of the SecRHC-Platform contract	5
Forthcoming events	5



Editorial by

Gerhard Stryi-Hipp
Fraunhofer-ISE

Dear Members and supporters of the RHC-Platform,

We hope the year started well for you. 2011 will provide us with a lot of opportunities, through the European Technology Platform on Renewable Heating and Cooling (RHC-Platform), to contribute actively to the RHC-policy of the European Union. After a very successful year in 2010, which was marked by a number of significant achievements for the RHC-Platform, the Board and the Secretariat are well prepared to expand the activities and increase awareness about renewable heating and cooling. With this editorial I would like to give you an overview of the ongoing activities.

The "**Common Vision**", this Platform's first-ever official publication, was completed in December 2010 and it is now being printed. Ms. Marie Donnelly, Director for new and renewable sources of energy at the European Commission, stresses in her foreword to the Common Vision the centrality of renewable heating and cooling within the framework of the SET-Plan (the strategy supported by the European Union to ensure the sustainability and competitiveness of our energy systems).

Since 1 January 2011, the RHC-Platform Secretariat is financed by the European Commission within the framework of the 7th Framework Programme for R&D. The Secretariat of the RHC-Platform is managed by EUREC Agency (coordinator) in collaboration with AEBIOM, EGEC and ESTIF.

Building on the significant work carried out under the previous contract for the European Solar Thermal Technology Platform, we are now looking forward to working together to define and implement a common strategy to increase the use of renewable energy sources for heating and cooling. We would like to warmly thank the European Commission's Unit ENER.C.2 for its continuous support, providing valuable input to all our events and activities.

At its last meeting, the Board agreed that one important task for the Secretariat will be to develop the communication within the RHC-Platform and with all its supporting Members. This newsletter is an important tool in our communication strategy, and we plan to issue it out regularly.

Among the objectives of the European Technology Platform on Renewable Heating and Cooling is also to provide its members with the opportunity for meeting, networking and exchanging ideas. Two upcoming workshops dedicated respectively to "**Smart Cities**" (9th February 2011) and to "**Thermal Energy Storage**" (10th February 2011) are expected to contribute to defining research priorities, timeframes and budgets on a number of strategically important issues with high relevance on biomass, geothermal and solar thermal energy technologies. There is a pressing need for the RHC-Platform to work on these topics and we are proud that our ETP has emerged as the reference decision-making forum for the renewable heating and cooling industry, research sector and policy.

The highlight this year will be the **second Annual Conference of the RHC-Platform on 5th and 6th May 2011 in Budapest, Hungary**. A first class panel of speakers will present the very **latest trends and developments for renewable heating and cooling technologies** and address a broad range of topics including **EU funding priorities** for research, development and innovation, market outlook, large scale integration of renewable heating and

cooling in the **European Smart Cities initiative**.

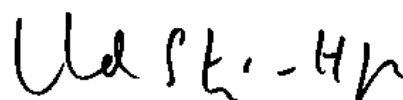


The 2nd Annual Conference of the RHC-Platform is endorsed by the Hungarian Government as official event under the auspices of the **Hungarian Presidency of the EU**, and is organised with the financial support of the **European Commission**. The Conference takes place in Budapest at the same venue and during the 5th RENEXPO® Central Europe, Hungary's major international trade fair for renewable energy and energy efficiency.

Along with the over 400 Members of the European Technology Platform on Renewable Heating and Cooling, we are looking forward to welcoming to this major event any other industry and research stakeholders interested in joining our Platform as it shapes the EU's Strategic Research Agenda for renewable heating and cooling technologies.

I warmly invite you to participate in the 2nd Annual Conference in Budapest and I hope to personally meeting you there.

Best regards,



Gerhard Stryi-Hipp

Fraunhofer-ISE
President of the RHC-Platform





News from the Solar Thermal Technology Panel (STTP)

The Steering Committee of the Solar Thermal Technology Panel (SC-STTP) of the RHC-Platform held its latest meeting on 8 November 2010 in Brussels.

During this meeting there was an update on solar thermal related R&D activities on the different countries and a discussion on some of the main priorities in relation to the work of the RHC-Platform. Furthermore the SC addressed the work to be done with relation to the SET-Plan, essentially on the Smart Cities Initiative. The upcoming Annual Conference of the RHC-Platform was also addressed and is regarded as a unique opportunity to ensure a very strong commitment from the solar thermal community and in particular the industry to the future activities of the panel.



News from the Geothermal Technology Panel

The geothermal panel of the RHC-Platform is now finalizing the Strategic Research Agenda of the sector.

The Focus Groups (on ground source heat pumps; deep geothermal and non-technical issues) have drafted the Geothermal SRA. They are defining in details the research priorities in order to achieve our Vision 2030.

A consultation will be launched end February in order to receive the last comments from the geothermal industry and the geothermal research community. The Geothermal Strategic Research Agenda will finally be published during the RHC-Conference in Budapest (5-6 May 2011).

In parallel, the Geothermal panel is working on the two following non technical issues: training and certification of Geothermal staff, geothermal risk mitigation.



News from the Biomass Technology Panel

Work on the "Biomass SRA" well on the way

The work programme for the biomass panel for the first half of 2011 was discussed in two conference calls of the issue group (IG) leaders. The main focus will be the strategic research agenda (SRA), for which a list of research topics was already established during the work on the biomass vision document. The IG leaders will contact the members of their respective working group and update this list. The goal is to arrive at a shortlist of priorities (5 each for biomass supply, small scale, large scale and non technological issues) which will be described in detail.

Timing: A draft of the SRA will be presented at the Annual Conference in Budapest (5/6 May) and additional stakeholder input will be incorporated in time for the AEBIOM European Bioenergy Conference (29/30 June) in Brussels. Let's work together!



News from the Cross-Cutting Technology Panel

As the RHC-Platform moves from its "Common Vision" phase to the definition of its Strategic Research Agenda, it is of crucial importance to also take into account the role played by cross-cutting technologies. With the "Thermal Energy Storage workshop" (10.02.2011) we kick-off a series of events organised by the Cross-cutting Panel to support its stakeholders defining the range and extent of measures necessary to achieve valuable advancements in the relevant energy technologies. Focus Groups 1 and 3, respectively dedicated to District Heating and Cooling and to Hybrid Systems, are planning similar events in March and April 2011.

Two workshops coming up soon!

Smart Cities - integrating Renewable Heating & Cooling Brussels - 9 February 2011



With the kind support of the Austrian Ministry for Transport, Innovation and Technology, the Secretariat of the European Technology Platform on Renewable Heating & Cooling (RHC-Platform) is organising a workshop on the "Contribution of Renewable Heating and Cooling Technologies to Smart Cities": on 9 February 2011 in Brussels.

The European Industrial Initiative "Smart Cities and Regions", already included in the SET-Plan, aims at positioning committed cities at the forefront of the development of the low carbon economy. For the renewable heating and cooling (RHC) industries, this initiative represents a unique opportunity for deploying large-scale innovative renewable heat solutions. The European Renewable Heating and Cooling Technology Platform wants to contribute to the ongoing consultation on the "Smart Cities" initiatives and to promote the effective integration of RHC technologies and industries into the cities of the future.

This workshop aims at identifying specific projects in the field of renewable heating and cooling to be implemented under the Smart Cities initiative, as well as determining the role which the RHC Platform can play to ensure that renewable heat technologies are rightly

Thermal Energy Storage Brussels - 10 February 2011

The Secretariat of the European Technology Platform on Renewable Heating & Cooling (RHC-Platform) is organising a workshop on Thermal Energy Storage in Brussels on 10 February 2011



The event represents an opportunity for all key actors in the European Research Area to engage in an effective dialogue, in view to open up new synergies and to identify specific technological priorities to be included in the Common Strategic Research Agenda of the RHC-Platform.

All Members of the RHC-Platform with specific experience in one or more research areas relevant to the workshop, are kindly invited to attend the event and participate in the definition of the future EU research priorities for thermal energy storage.

Under the call FP7-ENERGY-2011-2, open until the 7th April 2011, the European Commission has already allocated over 10 Million Euro to support scientific research and development for thermal energy storage systems. The RHC-Platform is committed to provide the EC with a qualified opinion on the research priorities for thermal energy storage systems, useful for the EU policy-maker to define the level and focus of future funding in this area.

SecRHC-Platform contract officially started on 1st January 2011

The contract to finance the secretariat of the European Technology Platform on Renewable Heating and Cooling was received at the end of December 2010, and officially started on 1st January 2011. It will run until 31st December 2013 for a total duration of three years.

EUREC (European Renewable Energy Research Centres) Agency is the project coordinator. EGEC (European Geothermal Energy Council), ESTIF (European Solar Thermal Federation), and AEBIOM (European Biomass Association) are the project partners.

The contract is divided into five main Work Packages:

- Project coordination and management (leader: EUREC Agency)
- Support to the definition and implementation of common research priorities (leader: EUREC Agency)
- Support to the definition and implementation of common policy strategies (leader: ESTIF)
- Integration of the whole renewable heating and cooling sector into the RHC-Platform (leader: AEBIOM)
- Communication and dissemination activities (leader: EGEC)

The contract covers organization of meetings (e.g. Board, panel meetings, annual conference), printing of documents (brochure, promotional material, Vision, Strategic Research Agenda...), participation to conferences to promote the RHC-Platform activities, and other activities supporting the creation of a truly integrated renewable heating and cooling sector.

In the first year, the secretariat of the RHC-Platform will focus on:

- Publication of the Common Vision
- Support to the creation of the "Smart Cities Industrial Initiative"
- Definition of strategic research priorities per panel
- Organisation of the 2nd annual conference in Budapest (on 5th and 6th May 2011)

Forthcoming events

- **8 February 2011, Brussels**
Steering Committee meeting of the Solar Thermal Technology Panel
- **9 February 2011, Brussels**
Workshop on Smart Cities - integrating Renewable Heating & Cooling
- **10 February 2011, Brussels**
Meeting of the Cross-cutting Technology Panel, Focus Group 2: Thermal Energy Storage.
- **1 March 2011, Brussels**
Board meeting of the RHC-Platform
- **2 March 2011, Brussels**
Meeting of the Cross-cutting Technology Panel, Focus Group 3: Hybrid systems & Heat Pumps
- **2 March 2011, Brussels**
Steering Committee meeting of the Biomass Technology Panel
- **5- 6 May 2011, Budapest**
Second Annual Conference of the European Technology Platform on Renewable Heating and Cooling

Publisher



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