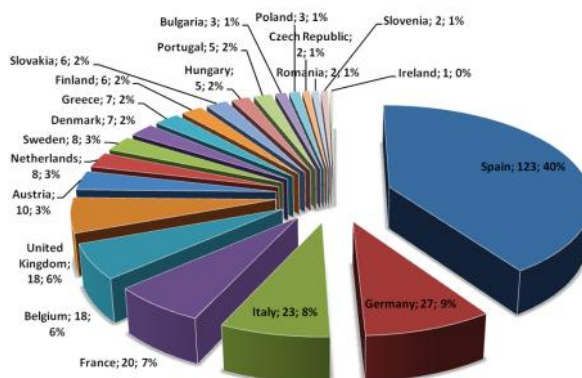




## Inside this issue

RHC-Platform - Impressive growth	1
News from the Solar Thermal Technology Panel	2/3
News from the Geothermal Technology Panel	4
News from the Biomass Technology Panel	4
News from the Cross-Cutting Technology Panel	5
Other news	5
SET-Plan Conferences 2010	6
Forthcoming events	6

## Distribution of RHC-Platform's Members by Countries in EU (as of 07.07.2010)



According to the figures presented by the RHC-Platform Secretariat to the Board Members on 7 July 2010, the Platform has already a steady base of 327 Members representing 33 Countries across the world.

93% of our Members are based in the European Union (representing 21 different EU Member States), while 23 stakeholders from non-European Countries are currently participating in the RHC-Platform as Associated Members.

Since the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference of the RHC-Platform (23-24 February 2010, Bilbao - Spain) the number of the RHC-Platform members has grown by 25%, a clear signal to policy makers that European industry and research bodies are effectively coming together to achieve the ambitious goals of the renewable heating and cooling sector.

## Impressive growth of the RHC-Platform

In 2010 the European Technology Platform on Renewable Heating and Cooling has grown at an impressive pace.





## News from the Solar Thermal Technology Panel (STTP)

### “Preparing the future steps”

By Gerhard Stryi-Hipp  
Chairman of the STTP Panel



**F**ollowing the publication of the Solar Thermal Strategic Research Agenda (SRA) in December 2008, the Solar Thermal Technology Panel (STTP) of the RHC-

Platform focused mainly on activities to establish the platform, to organize the 1<sup>st</sup> annual conference of the RHC-platform in Bilbao, to contribute to working groups of the

cross cutting panel and to support the development of a common vision of the RHC-platform. Now, our objective is to encourage the solar thermal members of the RHC-platform to contribute to the work of the STTP.

In November, the Steering Committee of the STTP will hold its next meeting and discuss the main priorities for the work of the STTP. One important topic is to resume the development of a Solar Thermal Technology Roadmap until 2020 that constitutes an important contribution to the RHC-Platform's Common Implementation plan for the Renewable Heating and Cooling Sector.

Over the past two years, the STTP work was done mainly by the secretariat, the chairmen and the steering committee of the STTP. Now we want to give the STTP-members the opportunity to contribute again to the STTP work. We want to use its expertise as was the case during the phase of the SRA development. This work may be done by different working groups or even require the organization of specific workshops, engaging the panel members, the industry and the research sectors in a fruitful cooperation. Which working groups will be established will be decided later.

The following topics will be important for the STTP panel in the coming months and years:

- the development of a ST Technology Roadmap;
- an update of the Strategic Research Agenda;
- the contribution to the cross cutting panel of the RHC-Platform with the focus groups thermal storages, district heating and hybrid systems.

And last but not least,

- the contribution to the work from the Smart Cities European Industrial Initiative (EII).

The Smart Cities EII is the part of the SET-Plan in which RHC could play a role. Therefore, the commission invited us to contribute to the development of this initiative. On 24 September there will be a workshop in Brussels about the Smart Cities EII where the next steps will be discussed.

The president and secretariat of the RHC-Platform will participate and will contribute to this discussion. Generally, the RHC- Platform board appreciated the opportunity to contribute to the Smart Cities EII and decided in July 2010 to contribute if there are enough resources available.

Within the STTP, the ST Technology Roadmap has to be developed soon. It shall focus on the implementation of the existing SRA, indicating the actions to be taken for the development of the framework conditions for technological advancement within the sector. Furthermore, specific reports shall be required on topics such as ST sector skills and training profile requirements and on the raw material and component needs.

At the meeting of the Steering Committee will also be discussed the renewal of the Panel, in particular of the Steering Group, and more immediate points related to the common work being done by the RHC-Platform.

We are looking forward to intensify the work of the STTP and seeing you in a working group or at the next RHC-Platform conference. ♦

## FP7 Call: several opportunities for Renewable Heating Technologies

The latest FP7 call, included in the Energy Work Programme of FP7 (Seventh Framework Programme) was launched by the European Commission last July. Reflecting some of the points included in the ESTTP Strategic Research Agenda, there are several topics relevant to solar thermal, both on the long and short-term and even including topics related to storage.

Under the call FP7-ENERGY-2011-1: focus on research with a long-term horizon (two-stage evaluation procedure with the first deadline at 16 November 2010) there is one relevant topic to solar thermal:

- Revisiting solar thermal systems for using breakthroughs in scientific and technological fields

Though most of the topics are under the call FP7- ENERGY-2011-2: focus on research with a short-term horizon and on demonstration, in particular under Activity 4: Renewables for Heating and Cooling. The deadline for this call, which has a one-stage evaluation procedure, is 7 April 2011. Under this activity the available topics are:

- Low/Medium temperature solar thermal systems for industrial process heat  
⇒Up to three projects envisaged
- Materials for thermal storage systems  
⇒Up to two projects envisaged
- Advanced compact storage systems  
⇒Up to three projects envisaged

For these three topics an indicative budget of 20mEUR is forecast. On these topics the active participation of relevant industrial partners (particularly SMEs) along with research organizations is seen as essential. In particular, for the storage related topics, input from industry in other sectors, such as chemical, will be especially valued.

While not directly related to solar thermal, other topics might be of interest within the call FP7-2011-NMP-ENV-ENERGY-ICT-EeB: energy-efficient buildings (deadline 2 December 2010):

- New efficient solutions for energy generation, storage and use related to space heating and domestic water in existing buildings
- Demonstration of very low energy new buildings

Further information and documentation on these calls can be found on the [CORDIS website](#).

*The European Commission also presented its evaluation of the participation in its calls, where it clearly stated that it values strong partnerships between the research sector and industry.*

*Therefore, it welcomed the increased participation from industry, in particular SMEs, both in terms of the contribution received by industry from the EC but also in terms of overall financial contribution of industry to the projects. Furthermore, it stressed the trend to support less albeit larger projects, with the average EC funding per project and per partner exceeding 8m EUR and 0,7 m EUR respectively.*

For more information, please contact :  
Pedro Dias  
Tel: +32 2 546 19 38  
e-mail: [pedro.dias@estif.org](mailto:pedro.dias@estif.org)



**The European Commission (DG Energy) is organising a one-day information session on the FP7- call content related to the Thermal Energy Storage topics.**

The Info Day / Workshop will be held on the 3 November 2010 in Brussels at the European Commission's premises (Rue De Mot 24). This event will provide valuable information on the FP7- Call topics 4.1.3 and 4.1.4 as well as the opportunity for networking through a brokerage event. Further information is available at <http://www.rhc-platform.org/cms/index.php?>



## News from the Geothermal Technology Panel

The geothermal panel of the RHC-Platform was launched on 15 April 2009. Today, it is composed of around 300 geothermal experts from the industry and the research sector, out of which 179 are registered as official Members of the RHC-Platform.

In June 2010, Javier Urchueguia was elected unanimously by the Steering Committee as chairman of the geothermal panel. He replaces Fabrice Boissier who stood down in March 2010.



Javier Urchueguia, from the University of Valencia and the company Energesis, was previously vice-chairman of the panel. Thomas Koelbel from EnBW was unanimously elected and succeeds him as vice-chairman. The other vice-chairman remains Jean-Philippe Gibaud from Schlumberger.

The Geothermal Panel has already published its “Vision 2020 – 2030” in December 2009. Therefore, it foresees a steady decrease in costs as well as an increase of the total heat and cold production going from 2,6 Mtoe (2007) to 10,5 Mtoe (2020) and even 60 Mtoe in 2030 in the case of an enhanced market.

The Focus Groups (on ground source heat pumps; deep geothermal and non-technical issues) are now working on the Strategic Research Agenda for the sector. They are defining in details the research priorities in order to achieve our Vision 2030. At the next meeting of the geothermal panel the first agreements will be reached and main priorities defined.



## News from the Biomass Technology Panel

The biomass panel of the RHC-Platform presented its vision for “Biomass for heating and cooling” during the AEBIOM European Bioenergy Conference on 30 June in Brussels.

The document addresses crucial issues of the most important renewable energy today (heating from biomass covers around 50% of all renewable energy in Europe!) and gives an outlook on future development and research priorities.

Kari Mutka, chairman of the biomass panel said:

“Even if biomass for heat application is fully commercial, we still need to continue more than ever to improve our efforts towards more efficient and environmentally sound technologies. That is the aim of this Vision.

Together with industry and R&D community stakeholders we would like to pave the way to our future heat supply for 2020 and beyond. More concretely in the short term we would like to establish guidelines for the future European support to R&D. We are now living in a crucial period for biomass to heat development and we should not miss this opportunity offered by the Biomass Panel of this new European Technology Platform”.



Download the brochure [here](#)



## News from the Cross-Cutting Technology Panel

In 2010 the activities of Cross-cutting Technology Panel (CCP) have concentrated on improving and defining better the qualitative and quantitative contribution of cross-cutting technologies to the Common Vision. District heating and cooling, thermal energy storage, renewable energy hybrid systems and heat pumps all play key (yet different) roles in the future market penetration of renewable heating and cooling systems.

Experts from the Cross-cutting Technology Panel provided a major contribution in the analysis of renewable cooling, from both the supply and demand. The RHC Secretariat organized a meeting of the CCP Steering Committee on 10 May 2010 in Brussels and three conference calls (in March, May and June). The Steering Committee also adopted a new set of rules – so called “terms of reference” - governing the operation of this Panel (document publicly available at <http://www.rhc-platform.org/cms/index.php?id=46>).

Philippe Papillon (CEA-INES) and Marco Bakker (ECN) were elected as new Steering Committee Members in replacement of Bernard Thonon and Ivo J. Opstelten respectively.

## Other news

### Renewable heating and cooling: Europe needs strong and coherent policies

The 30th of June 2010- was the date for each of the 27 EU Member States to hand in their National Renewable Energy Action Plans (NREAPs) to the European Commission under the Renewable Energy Directive.

Up to now, 19 Plans have been presented but we expect all Member States to submit their plans in the coming weeks. The NREAPs are giving an overview of the renewable energy sector's development until 2020, as well as detailed information on measures to achieve the targets. One year after the entry into force of the

Renewable Energy Directive, EU Member States have to outline how they intend to reach their national binding targets by 2020. The Renewable Energy industry expects ambitious and consistent action plans ensuring that the EU meets and even exceeds its 20% renewables target by 2020. Support measures should ensure that the binding targets are reached. The plans will also present new measures to comply with the directive, especially to support renewable heat, the “sleeping giant”.

Indeed, the actions put forward in many NREAPS already published rely mainly on renewable electricity; and the renewable heating and cooling sector's contribution is severely underestimated: Heat is the largest energy market in Europe, larger than electricity and transport. Over 40% of the EU's primary energy consumption is used for heating or cooling in buildings, for domestic hot water supply, for industrial process heat and for heat in the service sector.

Most of the heat is currently produced from imported and polluting fossil fuels or from electricity largely generated by fossil fuels or nuclear power. The energy consumption for cooling and air conditioning is increasing dramatically.

Renewable heating and cooling technologies (solar thermal, biomass, geothermal) can replace significant amounts of fossil fuels and electricity. A vast number of buildings in Europe could cover up to 100% of their energy demand for heating by combining biomass, solar thermal and/or geothermal energy.

Heating and cooling are necessary elements of any comprehensive strategy to develop renewables and to achieve sustainability in the energy sector.



A geothermal district heating system in Iceland

## SET-Plan Conferences 2010

On 3-4 June 2010 a high level conference on the EU's Strategic Energy Technology Plan (SET-Plan) was organised in Madrid, Spain. It presented the progress on the implementation of the SET-Plan and provided the opportunity for the formal launch of the first four European Industry Initiatives (EIs).

The **next SET-plan conference** will take place on 15-16 November 2010 in Brussels, Belgium.

The conference, a major event in the framework of the Belgian Presidency of the European Union, will set out the EU's strategy to accelerate the development of the SET-Plan Technologies and their market breakthrough.



Although it accounts for half of the overall final European energy demand, it is only since the adoption of the Directive promoting the use of Renewable Energy Sources (RES Directive), that heating and cooling has been recognized as the third pillar of the energy demand alongside transport and electricity production.

The RHC-Platform is therefore looking with much interest to the further developments in the implementation of the SET-Plan, in view of the long-awaited adoption of the actions needed to unlock the vast renewable energy potential of the European heating and cooling sector.

Additional information and registration to the event is available on:

<http://www.setplanconference2010.be>

## Forthcoming events

- **3 November 2010**  
One-day information session on the FP7- call contents related to the Thermal Energy Storage topics.  
Brussels, Belgium  
(at the European Commission)
- **8 November 2010**  
Meeting of the Solar Thermal Panel  
Brussels, Belgium  
(at the Renewable Energy House)
- **9 November 2010**  
Board meeting - Brussels, Belgium  
(at the Renewable Energy House)
- **December 2010 (tbc)**  
Meeting of the Geothermal Panel  
Paris, France

## Publisher

 Renewable  
Heating & Cooling  
European Technology Platform

RHC-Platform Secretariat

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

Tel: +32 2 546 1930  
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)