

EU PVSEC Hamburg, 17 September 2015

Industry experts assess status of performance improvement strategies and instruments for solar plants at EU PV Platform conference

As outlined in the current implementation plan of the [Solar Europe Industry Initiative](#), the photovoltaic (PV) industry is committed to improving the long-term performance of connected plants. This requires important efforts along the whole value chain, from material and hardware production to operation and maintenance.

Today, at a conference organised by the European Photovoltaic Technology Platform, and moderated by SolarPower Europe advisor Thomas Doering, distinguished industry experts shared their views on strategies and instruments to predict, monitor and improve the performance of PV plants.

All specialists agreed on the paramount importance of comprehensive, granular and reliable data for conducting robust analyses of connected plants. Industry strategies and instruments to improve data mining are numerous: Dr. Nicolas Sébastien, Chief Technology Officer, Reuniwatt described the benefits of combining ground measurement and satellite data, while Jeanna Panella, Team Leader Performance Engineering Group, First Solar stressed the necessity of advanced analytical software tools and algorithms.

The experts concurred that the quality of materials and of modules, beyond the existing industry standards, makes a great difference with respect to the long-term performance of PV plants. Dr. Lucie Garreau-Iles, Technical Manager EMEA, DuPont Photovoltaic Solutions explained that the quality of backsheets is vitally important, as it can impact the long-term durability and reliability of solar systems. Juan Carlos Gonzalez, Senior Technical Manager EU pointed out that his company Jinko Solar has adopted several strategies to improve module performance and reliability, selecting the appropriate BOMs through a program of tests beyond the standards and introducing a new optimizer for the avoidance of hotspots offering 3 MPPT per module.

Another question answered was: What happens when modules fail? Christoph Reiners, Head of O&M, BayWa r.e. outlined several replacement strategies. These depend both on costs and on the legal framework, the latter requiring some clarification in many European countries.

Commenting on the recently issued IEA PVPS Task 13 report on performance and reliability described by Dr. Wilfried van Sark, Associate Professor at the Utrecht University, the experts agreed that smart prevention, detection and classification of failures of PV plants will continue to be a major focus of PV research.

The presentations from the event are available [here](#).



Note to editors:

The European Photovoltaic Technology Platform is an initiative that aims at mobilising all the actors sharing a European vision and ambition for photovoltaic solar energy. The PV Platform is an independent and objective body, which aims to be the recognised point of reference for key decision and policy makers. The Platform's Mission is to develop a strategy and corresponding implementation plan for education, research and technology development, innovation and market deployment of photovoltaic solar energy.

For more information:

Thomas Doering, t.doering@solarpowereurope.org

Greg Arrowsmith, arrowsmith@eurec.be

Sofia Arancon, Sofia.Arancon@wip-munich.de

Arnulf Jäger-Waldau, Arnulf.JAEGER-WALDAU@ec.europa.eu

