



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

SEII Secretariat

Brussels, 25 August 2011

5th SEII Team Meeting

Wednesday 20th July 2011

Venue: Commission Building, Rue du Champ de Mars 21, Brussels - Room SDR1

Draft summary of the discussion and action items

1. Introduction of the morning session

The meeting was chaired by Bruno Schmitz (BS, European Commission) who welcomed the participants.

The agenda of the morning session (open only to the Member States) was adopted.

2. “Solar” ERA-NET action

BS gave a presentation on the “Solar” ERANET concept (please refer to the presentation in Annex 1 for details).

First of all there was a summary of the steps which have led to the inclusion of an ERANET action in the FP7 Work Programme 2012 to start realising the Implementation Plans for the SEII in both PV and CSP through joint calls between the participating Member States.

The following general aspects of ERA-NET actions were then stressed:

- The organisations participating in an ERA-NET shall be managers of national funding programmes (funding agencies) or owners of these programmes (ministries).
- The EC contribution covers the costs of coordination and administration to organise joint calls and also other relevant coordinating actions (such as enhanced information exchange on national activities).
- With regard to funding from Member States, the simplest modality implies that each MS funds its own participants. However, experience shows that good practise is to set aside a certain amount of money as common pot which gives more flexibility in the use of the ranking list. Each MS may commit a different budget which should be commensurate with the expected budget in the forthcoming joint calls.

With regard to the foreseen “Solar” ERA-NET it was highlighted that:

- Considering that the deadline for submitting the proposal for the “Solar” ERA-NET is 28th February 2012, the objective is to have the Grant Agreement signed by mid-2012 and to have the first Joint Call published around October 2012.
- The activities funded by the ERA-NET shall be carefully coordinated with funding prospects at national level in other schemes (e.g. NER300) in order to avoid double-funding but also allowing synergies and complementarities.
- The preparation of the proposal for the “Solar” ERA-NET is a responsibility of the countries that decide to participate. The Commission can provide advice if desired.
- All funding bodies with an interest in PV/CSP shall be beneficiaries of the ERA-NET grant in order to be able to participate in the joint calls. However, in the preparatory meetings for the ERA-NET proposal funding bodies from the same country may choose to be represented by one/two of them only.
- This ERA-NET being dedicated to the implementation of the SEII, the priority areas for any future joint calls shall be discussed and agreed within the SEII Team on the basis of the priorities set by the industry sectors in the first place.
- A Coordinator for the “Solar” ERA-NET should be identified as soon as possible.

A wide-ranging discussion took place and the main observations were as follows:

- This ERA-NET will focus on industrial projects and this may imply differences in terms of timing, budget, IPRs etc. from the usual coordination of national R&D projects through ERA-NET schemes.
- Industry co-funding shall be mandatory as this is an industrial initiative.
- There can be possible confusion in the parallel running of two ERA-NETs in the same area as the earlier PV ERA-NET is still active. [*Note. Confusion should not exist since the "Solar" ERA-NET is specifically dedicated to the implementation of the SEII*]
- ERA-NET activities can start also without upfront budget commitments from participating countries. [*Note. The upfront commitment of budget from participating countries is essential in this case as it is necessary to keep the momentum created by the launch of the SEII*]
- The Commission should take on a coordinating role in the “Solar” ERA-NET. [*Note. The Coordinator of the ERA-NET must be from one of the participating countries*]
- It is necessary to investigate in each country what type of funding the industry is expecting, how many industries are interested in the topics and what timing they foresee.
- Regions which benefit from structural funds can also participate in the “Solar” ERA-NET.
- It is advisable to organise the participation in the next SEII Team Meeting of colleagues from the ERA-NET Unit of the EC.

3. Introduction of the afternoon session

The meeting was chaired by Bruno Schmitz (BS, European Commission) who welcomed the participants.

The minutes of the fourth SEII Team Meeting of 4 May 2011 were adopted without modifications.

The agenda of the afternoon session (plenary session of the SEII Team) was adopted.

4. Orientations on the “Solar” ERA-NET stemming from the morning session

BS summarised the discussion of the morning and stressed the need to further discuss and agree within the SEII Team the top priorities to be funded by the "Solar" ERA-NET.

The priorities should be presented in a precise and concise way, they should be of European "interest" (i.e. EU added-value), should have a timing which is compatible with the “Solar” ERA-NET and be of medium scale (i.e. ambitious and of industrial relevance while also being commensurate with what can be reasonably expected to be supported by the participating countries through joint programming).

5. Sector activities of interest

Jef Poortmans illustrated the scheme for knowledge sharing that has been applied for the past two and a half years at the Interuniversity Microelectronics Centre (please refer to the presentation in Annex 2 for details). [*Note. Knowledge sharing issues within the SEII have to be further investigated possibly by means of an ad-hoc working group or by linking to the other industrial initiatives.*]

The representative of EERA-CSP (Robert Pitz-Paal) presented the preliminary results of a report on R&D and deployment issues of the CSP sector (please refer to the presentation in Annex 3 for details). The report is a study by the European Academies Science Advisory Council. One of the interesting conclusions is the fact that the CSP technology can become competitive with conventional non-renewable technologies between 2020-2030 provided that the CSP costs decrease by 15% and that the current trend of costs of fossil fuels continues. The report needs to be reviewed and the SEII Team may help in this respect.

6. SET-Plan supporting activities

The updated results of the work done on Key Performance Indicators (KPI) were presented by EPIA and ESTELA (please refer to Annex 4 for details). The work is at draft final stage and seeking approval.

The outcomes of the workshop on financing first-of-its-kind energy projects were presented (please refer to the following link for details: <http://setis.ec.europa.eu/newsroom-items-folder/set-plan-workshop-on-financing-1/view>). Commercial loans, risk insurances and reimbursed advances seem to have interesting prospects. An ad-hoc working group on financial instruments could be started within the SEII.

The status of the mapping exercise was again discussed. A simplified version of the questionnaire will be drafted by the Sherpa group of the SET Plan. Pending the simplified questionnaire, the SEII Team can provide at least schematic information (title, budget, objectives; also in languages other than English) of the most relevant projects/programmes.

7. NER300

A brief discussion took place on the status of the NER300 project proposals which are relevant for the SEII (four proposals for PV, nine proposals for CSP).

8. Follow-up actions and timeline

- EC to organise participation in the next SEII Team Meeting of colleagues from the ERA-NET Unit.
- Not later than 16 September 2011 industry to provide further insights on their priorities to the SEII Team.
- SEII Team to suggest candidate reviewers of the report on CSP (European Academies Science Advisory Council) not later than 16 September 2011.
- SEII Team to provide last comments on the draft final version of the document on the KPIs. Experts from outside the SEII Team should be involved. If no comments are received within 16 September 2011, the work will be considered as approved.
- SEII Team to indicate interest to participate in a possible working group on financial instruments (response to be provided not later than 16 September 2011).

Annexes:

1. Presentation of “Solar” ERA-NET

2. Schemes for knowledge sharing (IMEC)

3. Report on CSP prospects (European Academies Science Advisory Council)

4. Key Performance Indicators for the Solar European Industrial Initiative – updated version

List of MS/Industry/EERA attendees

Surname	Name	Member State	PV Industry	CSP Industry	EERA
Davids	Martina	DE			
Etchebehere	Evelyn	FR			
Fabrizi	Fabrizio	IT			
Herrero Rueda	Jose	SP			
Hunnekes	Christoph	DE			
Indinger	Andreas	AT			
Kuckelkorn	Thomas			SCHOTT SOLAR	
Fresneda	José			ESTELA	
Oberholzer	Stefan	CH			
Pitz-Paal	Robert				EERA-CSP
Polain	Laurence	BE			
Poortmans	Jef	BE			
Poza	David	SP			
Rigby	Peter		UMICORE		
Rostand	Bruno	CY			
Schaefer	Barbara	DE			
Sinke	Wim		PV TP		EERA-PV
Tselepis	Stathis	GR			
Vanbuggenhout	Pieterjan		EPIA		
Vrijmoed	Suzanne	NL			
Yilmaz	Ilknur	TR			

List of EC attendees

Bruno Schmitz, RTD, K3
Piero De Bonis, RTD, K3
Fabio Belloni, RTD, K3
Elisa Tesselli, RTD, K1