

Solar ERA NET preparatory meeting / 5th PV ERA NET meeting, Zurich, 21 November 2011

Participants

Bastek	Hermann	Projekträger Jülich - EEN1	Germany
Bernsen	Otto	NL Agency	The Netherlands
Błaszczuk	Cezary	NCBiR - Narodowe Centrum Badań i Rozwoju / National Centre for Research and Development	Poland
Fabrizi	Fabrizio	ENEA - Italian National Agency for New Technologies, Energy and Sustainable Economic Development	Italy
Fahringer	Fritz	BMVIT - Federal Ministry for Transport, Innovation and Technology; Division Innovation - Energy and Environmental Technologies	Austria
Gutschner	Marcel	NET - Nowak Energy & Technology Ltd	Switzerland
Hünnekes	Christoph	Project Management Jülich, Renewable Energies Division (EEN)	Germany
Martens	Carolien	IMEC	Belgium / Flanders
Nowak	Stefan	NET - Nowak Energy & Technology Ltd	Switzerland
Oberholzer	Stefan	SFOE - Swiss Federal Office of Energy	Switzerland
Polain	Laurence	Département de l'Énergie et du Bâtiment durable • Direction de la promotion de l'énergie durable	Belgium / Wallonia
Rabe	Stefan	Cluster Energieforschung.NRW	North-Rhine Westphalia
Rigby	Peter	Umicore S.A.,	Belgium
Wikman	Karin	Tekes - the Finnish Funding Agency for Technology and Innovation	Finland

Apologies: Andalucía, Cyprus, Denmark, France, Sweden (Sara Bargi's flight was cancelled)

The minutes summarise key decisions taken and statements made. Topics discussed can be seen in the presentation attached. Discussion followed the structure of the presentation prepared.

Participation and types of participation

All potential partners of a future Solar ERA NET expressed a **favorable position** towards their involvement in such a project. No particular **eligibility** problem should arise with partners present (research institutions present have and will provide the relevant links to organizations to be involved). Actual participation shall be checked within the countries with respect to organization(s) and person(s) to be involved. Non-present countries having manifested their interest will be contacted by the PV ERA NET secretariat. Further countries may be contacted, e.g. Turkey and Norway were mentioned.

All partners favored “**full partner**” **status** rather than “associated partner” status. The “**associated partner**” **status** shall be reserved for exceptional cases in order to strengthen outreach of the network’s activities where appropriate (e.g. joint calls). Full partnership allows for actually shaping the activities (e.g. defining joint call topics).

With respect to the type of participation, a **core team** shall be set up. Germany, Italy and the Netherlands could consider taking a key role for certain activities. NRW could consider specific support for certain activities. Non-present countries and regions have to be contacted by the PV ERA NET secretariat for checking their interest. Related tasks have to be defined based on the outcomes of this meeting and the set-up of activities and definition of roles that have to be described in the proposal.

An **Advisory Board** shall be mainly composed of (SEII team) members reflecting the perspectives of the Industry and the Commission. It is suggested that members provide synergy between the SEII team and Solar ERA NET (preventing duplication).

Activities and approaches

Main focus of Solar ERA NET is on **joint activities**, mainly joint calls. However information exchange and tools developed by PV ERA NET shall continue to be used. The definition of future **joint calls** actually also depends on previous **information exchange** concerning needs and priorities in the respective countries and regions.

As far as possible, **PV and CSP** will work together in parallel. If it comes to launching calls, it is likely to have specific approaches due to the different nature and structure of these technologies and their projects. Specific expert teams will then elaborate the respective calls.

Four joint calls in all for PV and CSP with, on average, a minimum funding **budget of 10 MEUR** (all countries and regions together) are suggested as milestones / deliverables. If opportunities arise, more joint calls with larger funding budget can be launched.

The **mechanisms of topic setting** are roughly defined. The SEII team is about to put together a list of topics in order to have partly broader topics that can be used for joint calls. In the end, it’s up to the states participating in joint calls to define the topics in line with the SEII strategic vision. It is suggested that the proposal will include a list of **clustered topics** for joint calls.

Due to the dynamic environment, it is not foreseen to define topics beyond the first joint call. However the **first joint call** is supposed to be launched as soon as possible after the start of the network (already for the sake of providing / reserving funds in time for the year 2013 or being able to initiate procedure for official publication of calls). There are more topics suggested for PV whereas, so far, some few topics are suggested in the CSP area.

Basic mechanisms for funding will be based on the “**virtual pot**” model. PV ERA NET worked with budgets committed by the countries mostly in an “informal” way. It is mentioned that for some countries these procedures may not be formal enough. A more formal approach could be envisaged latest when it comes to launching calls.

Calls shall be done in a **two-step approach** with a “light” preproposal phase (as did PV ERA NET) facilitating the procedure both for proposers and states (to be) involved (topics, partners, budgets, etc.).

Administrative and financial issues

The EC provides a budget of max. 2MEUR for the network. As a coordination activity, direct costs are covered 100% but indirect costs appear to be covered by only max. 7%. This needs to be clarified/resolved as it poses problems for some of the partners.

For administrative issues with EC forms and prerequisites, Germany and Finland have fresh experience that can be consulted when drafting the proposal.

The project will be coordinated by Switzerland (NET Ltd., Swiss PV RTD Programme Manager). Long standing experience is available from the earlier PV ERA NET as well as from other international networks (e.g. IEA PVPS) and projects.

Action List with main points to be covered

The action list shall be refined as preparing the proposal evolves.

What	Who	(By) When
1. Check and confirm participation (relevant countries, organizations and contact persons)	All -> PV ERA NET secretariat PV ERA NET secretariat provides information to potential partners manifested interest or being suggested	15 December 2011
2. Provide participant's information (PIC, A2 form, etc.)	Upon information provided by the PV ERA NET secretariat, potential participants fill in forms needed for the proposal.	20 December 2011
3. Set up the Advisory Board	SEII team representatives provide a list of names being defined at the next SEII team meeting (16 December 2011)	20 December 2011
4. Define clustered topics for potential Solar ERA NET initiated joint calls on PV and CSP	SEII team	20 December 2011
5. Draft pre-proposal for comments by participants	PV ERA NET secretariat and core team participants	12 January 2012
6. Submit draft for pre-proposal check	PV ERA NET secretariat	19 January 2012
7. Draft proposal for comments by participants	PV ERA NET secretariat	8 February 2012
8. Submit proposal	PV ERA NET secretariat	15 February 2012
Next meeting		
tbd, ev. Core team meeting before submitting proposal		

Marcel Gutschner and Stefan Nowak / 23 November 2011