Press release
July 2007

2007 Solar Thermal Barometer

With a nearly 44.3% increase in 2006, the European solar thermal market passed the benchmark of 3 million m² of solar collectors, equivalent to an additional capacity of 2 159.7 MWth. This spectacular growth is explained by both the strained energy context that Europe finds itself confronted with today (considerable increase in the price of fuel oil and natural gas) and the political will of certain EU countries to develop this sector.
EurObserv'ER presents the current state of development of this sector in its barometer published in issue **N° 180** of ***Systèmes Solaires – Le Journal des Énergies Renouvelables.***

More than 3 million m² installed in 2006

Current development of the solar thermal sector is very encouraging with a marked acceleration in growth observed in 2006 (23.5% between 2004 and 2005, and 44.3% between 2005 and 2006). This growth corresponds to a newly installed surface of 3 085 265 m² (glazed and unglazed collectors), i.e. an additional capacity of 2 159.7 MWth (**Table 1**). At the end of 2006, the total surface area of active solar installations in the EU passed the 20 million m² benchmark, i.e. an equivalent thermal capacity of 14 280 MW.

European growth is not supported only by the mature solar markets of Germany, Austria and Greece, but also by high potential markets like France, Italy and Spain. In this way, the German market rose from 980 000 m² installed in 2005 to more than 1.5 million m² in 2006, i.e. nearly half of the EU market. France continued to be the leading European country in terms of growth in 2006, with 83.1% more than in 2005. The French solar thermal market passed the 300 000 m² mark (with approximately 75 000 m² of this total found in the French overseas departments). The Austrian market is estimated at nearly 300 000 m² with all technologies being considered together (glazed and unglazed). This represents 25.1% growth with respect to 2005. Greece continues to be a sure bet in terms of solar thermal energy with 240 000 m² installed in 2006, i.e. 9.1% growth with respect to 2005. The Italian market grew by 46.4% to reach 186 000 m², while the Spanish market increased by 26% to reach nearly 135 000 m².

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Table 1: *Annual installed surfaces in 2006* per type of collectors (in m²) and power equivalent (in MWth)*

Countries	Market 2006				
	Flat plate collectors	Unglazed collectors	Vacuum collectors	Total (in m²)	Equiv. power (MWth)
Germany	1 350 000	30 000	150 000	1 530 000	1 071.0
France**	284 000	6 000	11 000	301 000	210.7
Austria	289 745	6 935	2 924	299 604	209.7
Greece	235 200	-	4 800	240 000	168.0
Italy	156 240	3 720	26 040	186 000	130.2
Spain	127 199	-	7 464	134 663	94.3
Cyprus	60 000	-	-	60 000	42.0
UK	27 000	-	27 000	54 000	37.8
Belgium	31 267	8 828	4 369	44 464	31.1
Sweden	19 825	13 416	8 713	41 954	29.4
Poland	35 150	150	6 290	41 590	29.1
Netherlands	14 685	24 419	-	39 104	27.4
Denmark	33 000	-	-	33 000	23.1
Czech Rep.	18 490	6 000	3 540	28 030	19.6
Portugal	20 000	-	-	20 000	14.0
Slovakia	7 700	-	800	8 500	6.0
Slovenia	5 890	-	566	6 456	4.5
Malta	4 500	-	-	4 500	3.2
Ireland	2 500	-	900	3 400	2.4
Finland	3 400	-	-	3 400	2.4
Luxembourg	2 500	-	-	2 500	1.8
Latvia	1 200	-	-	1 200	0.8
Hungary	1 000	-	-	1 000	0.7
Lithuania	600	-	-	600	0.4
Estonia	350	-	-	350	0.2
Total EU	**2 731 391**	**99 468**	**254 406**	**3 085 265**	**2 159.7**

** Estimate.*

*** Overseas departments included.*

Source: EurObserv'ER 2007.

The integral version of the Barometer can be downloaded free of charge from the site: **www.energies-renouvelables.org** and was also published in N° 180 of S*ystèmes Solaires – Le Journal des Énergies Renouvelables*.

Industry creating wealth and jobs

Solar thermal market growth goes hand in hand with sector development. In 2006, sector turnover in this way reached €1.2 billion in Germany (€750 million in 2005), €400 million in Austria (€232 million in 2005), €196 million in Greece (€176 million in 2005) and €140 million in Spain (€86 million in 2005). The number of direct and indirect jobs created by the sector in 2006 is estimated at 19 000 in Germany, 6 500 in Austria, 3 000 in Italy and 2 780 in Greece.

Table 2 gives an overview of some of the large industrialists present on the European market and this in different fields of action. Comparisons can not be made between all of the production figures and turnover figures presented in it. Since some of them manufacture and commercialise the totality of their solar systems, while others produce only elements of installations that shall then be offered on the market under a brand different from their own.

Table 2: Representative companies of the European Union thermal solar sector in 2006*

Companies	Countries	Type of technologies	Turnover (2006) (M€)	Production (in m²)
Green One Tec	Austria	Flat-plate and vacuum collectors	77	800 000
KBB Kollektorbau	Germany	Absorbers and flat-plate collectors (OEM)	18	350 000 (absorbers) 50 000 (collectors)
Viessmann	Germany	Heating equipment supplier of which solar thermal	1 400*	250 000
BBT Thermotechnik	Germany	Heating equipment supplier of which solar thermal	2 800**	200 000
Ritter Solar	Germany	Vacuum tube collectors	n. a.	102 000
Thermomax	Northern Ireland	Vacuum tube collectors	22.5	80 000
Clipsol	France	Flat-plate collectors	12	> 30 000
Isofotón	Spain	Flat-plate and vacuum collectors	176***	29 000

* The renewable energy share of Viessmann group turnover is around 280 million euros.

** The renewable energy share of the BTT group turnover is around 11%.

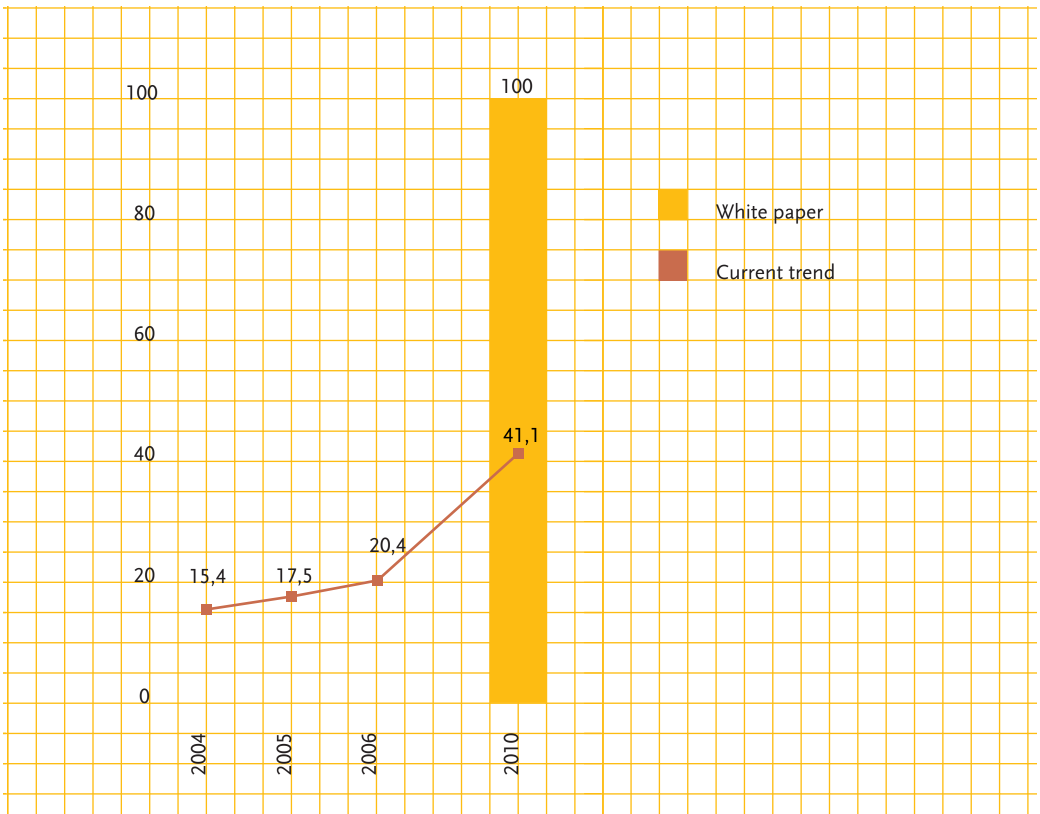
*** Turnover of the total solar activities of Isofotón, mainly photovoltaic.

Source: EurObserv'ER 2007.

Attractive prospects

The present situation is very favourable for a continuation in the rapid growth of the European market. This growth is no longer exclusively ensured by a few leading counties, but also by new countries whose potential has hardly been tapped yet like France, Italy, Spain and Portugal. These countries have established conditions favourable for rapid development of their markets, by both reinforcing financial assistance systems and by establishing new legislation with requirements or incentives for the installation of solar systems in buildings under construction or renovation. This idea of an obligation to integrate solar energy (or other renewable energies) in all new buildings is gaining importance in the countries of the European Union. This European market growth is reinforced by the fact that the mature markets of Germany and Austria are continuing to thrive, thanks not only to development of individual solar water heating systems but also more and more to combined systems and collective-scale installations. These favourable prospects have led us to re-evaluate our forecasts for 2010 at 41.1 million m² (**Graph 1**).

Graph 1: Comparison of current trend with the White paper objectives (in million m²)



Source: EurObserv'ER 2007.

EurObserv'ER

EurObserv'ER is a consortium composed of five European organisations devoted to the promotion of renewable energies within the European Union.

These five organisations are:
- **Observ'ER**, the Observatory of renewable energies (Paris, France);
- **Eurec Agency**, the European association of renewable energy research centers (Brussels, Belgium);
- **Eufores,** European forum for renewable energy sources (Brussels, Belgium);
- **Erec,** The European Renewable Energy Council (Brussels, Belgium);
- **Jozef Stefan Institute,** Energy Efficiency Center (Ljubljana, Slovenia);

The EurObserv'ER barometer

The **EurObserv'ER barometer** consists of regular publication in the European press of indicators reflecting the current dynamics of renewable energy sectors (solar, wind, hydraulic, geothermal and biomass) worldwide and within the European Union.

The EurObserv'ER barometer is a project supported by the European Commission within the DG Tren "Intelligent-Europe Energy" programme. It is also supported by the Ademe, the French Environment and Energy management Agency.

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