MEMBER NEWS

European Solar Research Infrastructure for Concentrated Solar Power Begins Operation

EU-SOLARIS ERIC, the European Solar Research Infrastructure for Concentrated Solar Power, held its constitutive meeting and first General Assembly on January 12th, 2023, marking the beginning of its operation.

Joining four member countries – Cyprus, France, Germany and Spain – and one Observer – Portugal, EU-SOLARIS ERIC arises from a long and successful collaboration between European research centers operating concentrating solar thermal (CST) research facilities, acknowledging that the development of solar energy, using concentrating systems, has a supra-national dimension that demands a strong alliance between research teams with a particular focus on the Research Infrastructures (RI) to enhance the research efficiency and the technology development.

Integrating the European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures (ESFRI) Roadmap since 2012, EU-SOLARIS ERIC aims to become the European reference research infrastructure in the technological development of CST and solar thermal electricity (STE) systems and related applications by offering the best conditions for the development of research activities for the scientific and industrial communities.

During 2023 EU-SOLARIS ERIC will consolidate its operational status and open a call for projects to develop standards, tools, and procedures to improve the interoperability and the quality of the services offered to research infrastructures users.

EU-SOLARIS ERIC is in a privileged position to contribute to the development of the IEA SHC Programme's mission by providing access to both the scientific and industrial community and world-class research facilities and supporting the development of a wide range of concentrating solar thermal technologies and applications, including not only power production but also solar heat for industrial processes and solar fuels production. Opportunities for synergy with IEA SHC can be found beyond R&D in activities such as disseminating CST technologies, applications and the value of training young researchers and professionals.

For more information, please visit https://eu-solaris.eu/.

An example of EU-SOLARIS related facilities is the Hydrosol experimental platform for hydrogen production at Plataforma Solar de Almeria in Spain.

Constitutive meeting of the European Solar Research Infrastructure for Concentrated Solar Power in January 2023.