

Current progress of activities at EU-SOLARIS ERIC: The European Research Infrastructure Consortium for CSP Technologies

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Formal Constitution of EU-SOLARIS ERIC

- Recognized by EC on **October 2022** through the implementing decision **EU 2022/2297**
- Formally established on **January 2013**
- Four **Members**: Spain (Statutory Seat), France, Germany and Cyprus
- One **Observer**: Portugal



Constitutive Meeting of EU-SOLARIS ERIC, Madrid, 12 January 2023

EU-SOLARIS ERIC: The Basics

What is NOT EU-SOLARIS ERIC	What it IS
• A project	A long lasting consortium of countries focused on the joint development of their research infrastructures around a theme, in this case 'Concentrating Solar Thermal', under a European Union-promoted legal form (ERIC).
• A company	
• A network	

If you want to know more about ERICs and other RRIL, visit:

<https://www.eric-forum.eu/>

<https://esfri.eu>

EU-SOLARIS ERIC: The Basics (II)

What we DO (would like to)	What we DON'T do
• Calls focusing on RRII (i.e. HE's RRII Programme) • Networking (i.e. COST, etc..) • By invitation, representing the CST community*, in other calls (i.e. WIDERA, EIE, etc) • Fund own projects within the consortium (<i>Internal Projects</i>)	To participate in 'conventional' R&D funding calls, competing with our own partners at the ERIC



*EU-SOLARIS always tries to involve as many partners as possible as '**Affiliated Entities**' of the project

EU-SOLARIS ERIC: The Basics (III)

How is it funded?

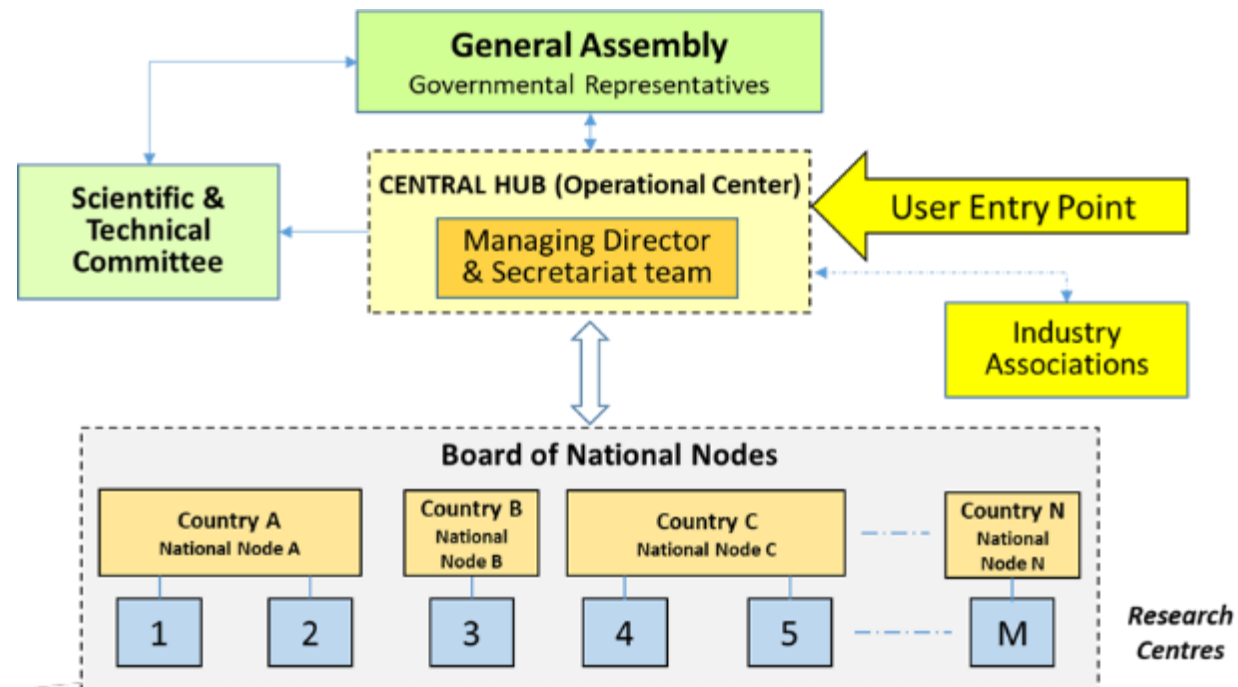
- ✓ Every Member country contributes an **annual fee (20 k€)**
- ✓ Participation in **externally-funded projects** (mostly HE):
Success in four out of five HE proposals in year 2023.
- ✓ **In-kind contributions:** Spain, through CIEMAT, contributes the services of the managing director and hosts the Central Hub (@PSA, in Almería)



-  **Constitutive members:**
Spain, Germany, France,
Cyprus
-  **Observer:** Portugal (two-
years period until end of
2024)
-  **Other countries involved
into the process (and
likely to join):** Italy,
Greece, Turkey

Governance of EU-SOLARIS ERIC

- These are our governance bodies as established in our Statutes:
 - General Assembly:** Main decision-making body
 - Scientific & Technical Committee:** Supporting on technical activities
 - Central Hub:** Day-by-day operation of the ERIC
 - Board of National Nodes:** The ‘transmission belt’ towards the national communities



Planned Lines of Action

PROVISION OF ACCESS

- A key activity will be the **improvement of the accessibility and interoperability** of the existing RIs to the research communities and industries.
- EU-SOLARIS will offer a **single *User Entry Point***, where facilities, resources and research services will be effectively offered to users demanding this service.

COORDINATION OF MEMBERS' RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURES

- Assist in the coordination of the existing R&D installations, **optimizing the use of existing resources**, avoiding duplication of efforts and fostering specialization among involved centres.
- Identify **new requirements** for the improvement of existing research facilities and for the **construction of new ones**.



Planned Lines of Action (II)

INDUSTRY

- Reinforce the collaboration with industry. **Provide adequate testing services** to innovative industries.
- Unify and define **test protocols & standards** to always provide the best possible test facility and experts to every necessity.



DISSEMINATION

- Offer **training services** for the industry and also **establish training networks** to grow the next generation of CSP/STE researchers.
- Lead and coordinate the **dissemination of results and good practices**.



EU-SOLARIS' Own-funded activities

INTERNAL PROJECT:

To deliver innovative scientific instrumentation, tools, methods or solutions contributing to advance the state-of-art of Concentrating Solar Thermal (CST) Research Infrastructures (RIs)

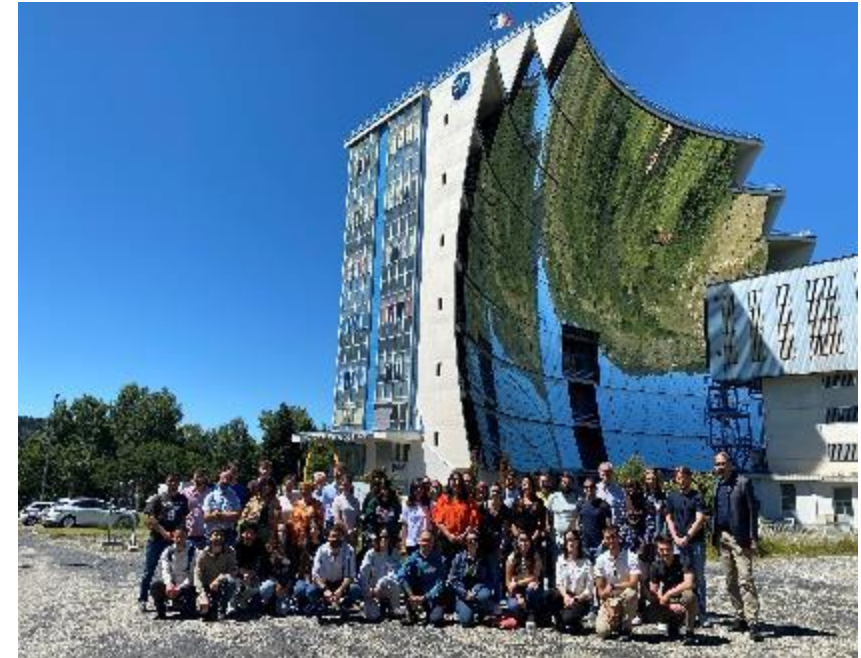
- ✓ **Own funds (45 k€)**
- ✓ **2023 already active: 'FLARES' (led by IMDEA)**
- ✓ **2024 :Call for proposals published**

<https://eu-solaris.eu/internal-projects/>

DOCTORAL COLLOQUIUM 2024:

PROMES-CNRS, at Odeillo (FR)

Keeping a long-lasting tradition of partners' Early-Stage Researchers



Doctoral Colloquium @ PROMES-CNRS, 3-5 July, 2024

EU-SOLARIS' Internal Projects

INTERNAL PROJECT: Call 2024 is open

The proposed project must be oriented to deliver **innovative scientific instrumentation, tools, methods or solutions** contributing to advance the state-of-art of Research Infrastructures

1. Flux measurement systems.
2. Durability and accelerated aging of solar reflectors
3. Durability and accelerated aging of solar receivers
4. Solar field attenuation.
5. Collector shape assessment techniques
6. Solar radiation measurement, assessment and forecasting.
7. Other topics: development of new instrumentation
8. Standardization/certification of components or systems

A consortia is made up of **R&D teams from institutes, organizations, and companies** of the Member Countries.

Applying consortia **must** include partners from at least **three Member Countries**

Deadline: 15th October



EU-SOLARIS' Horizon Europe Projects on their way

HORIZON-INFRA-2023-DEV-01-06: Strengthen the [bilateral cooperation](#) on research infrastructures with Latin America

EULAC ENERGYTRAN: EULAC Research Infrastructures Cooperation For Energy Transition Between Europe and Latin-American and the Caribbean Countries

- ✓ Led by the **Organization of Iberian-American States**
- ✓ EU-SOLARIS coordinates mobilities for Iberian-American researchers to European labs

CACTUS: Enhanced Solar PV performance through improved research infrastructure for adapted climate conditions

- ✓ Led by **CEA-Liten**
- ✓ EU-SOLARIS leads WP2 'Enhancing Research Infrastructures'.

HORIZON-INFRA-2023-SERV-01-01: Research infrastructure [services](#) to enable R&I addressing main challenges and EU priorities

RISEnergy: Research Infrastructure Services for Renewable Energy

- ✓ EU-SOLARIS ERIC coordinates the provision of access to seven RIs on CST



Energytran



An Introduction to project **SOLARIZE**

Background and context

Program INFRADEV-2023-24: Developing, consolidating and optimising the European research infrastructures landscape, maintaining global leadership and, in particular the topic:

HORIZON INFRA-2023-DEV-01-03: Consolidation of the RI landscape – Individual support for evolution and long-term sustainability of pan-European research infrastructures.

The main goal is to **strengthen a 'new-born' ERIC as EU-SOLARIS** (approved by the EC in November 2022 and further established in January 2023), while helping in the better structuring and reinforcement of the European RI landscape.



KoM in Almería 23 July, 2024

Bringing EU-SOLARIS ERIC to its Zenith

- **Grant #** 101131982
- **Total budget:** 4,468,405 €
- **EC contribution:** 3,557,637 € (80%)
- **Duration:** 42 months
- 1 July, 2024 to 31 December, 2027
- **Partners:** 12
- **Countries involved:** 8



Three main goals of SOLARIZE



Strengthening of EU-SOLARIS ERIC (Internal)

Providing the ERIC with *internal* resources to achieve a stronger position based on a wider base of members, a clear scientific agenda and a realistic business strategy

Positioning of EU-SOLARIS ERIC (External)

Position the ERIC in the World, providing it with a presence in the media but also reinforcing its interaction with the various stakeholders: industry, research community worldwide, funding entities and potential new members

Provision of Enhanced Services

Offering improved access services and a new *e-infrastructure* to meet the new *open access policy* requirements and enhance interoperability among the partners

Specific objectives and related actions



SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE	RELATED ACTION/S
1. Consolidation of the EU-SOLARIS ERIC	Advance in the degree of association as a single entity
2. Enhancement of techno-scientific capabilities	Joint activities for development/adoption of new standards Specialized training of staff Identification of hybrid approaches and building of facilities
3. Sustainability in the long run	Designation of an Industrial Liaison Officer Reinforcing relationship within the scientific community Seeking new Members of ERIC in a systematic way
4. Data accessibility and interoperability	Setting-up of an e-infrastructure in several ERIC nodes

Specific objectives and related actions (cont'd)



SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE	RELATED ACTION/S
5. Long term strategies	Development of a joint Strategic Research Agenda , together with the European CST industry
	Communication, dissemination and exploitation plan (PDEC)
6. Maximization of ERIC's impact	Develop specialized training activities for R&D and also industrial communities
	Promotion of international cooperation as a single body

In short: EU-SOLARIS ERIC intends to reinforce the CST community, in the same vein than former projects like the SFERAs, but in a long-lasting perspective. SOLARIZE will help to reach 'cruise speed'.

Some key messages to take away

- EU-SOLARIS ERIC is NOT a project, is neither a network, it's a LONG LASTING CONSORTIUM OF COUNTRIES under a specific European legislation.
- Members are the COUNTRIES, with a leading R&I institute per member.
- Members contribute a 20 k€/yr fee. Observers pay NOTHING for 2 years.
- EU-SOLARIS ERIC is a legal entity and can apply to Horizon Europe calls (already on board of 4 projects).
- It's all about Research Infrastructures and focused on internal coordination, delivery of services (i.e. access to RIs), capacity building, development of common testing procedures and tools, policy making, etc.....

...and much more to come.....

SITUACIÓN ACUERDOS PENDIENTES ASOCIADOS A EU-SOLARIS

Acuerdo de Adscripción de Diego Martínez a EU-SOLARIS

Firmado entre CIEMAT y el Ministerio de Ciencia, Innovación y Universidades. el 15.12.2023

Acuerdo de Alojamiento de EU-SOLARIS en las Instalaciones del CIEMAT-PSA

Después de varios informes negativos, que obligaron a la realización de cambios en el documento, el mes pasado (septiembre) se recibió un informe ya positivo de la Abogacía del Estado (AE). Enviado hace 2 semanas por la Secretaria General del CIEMAT a la DG de Patrimonio, de donde debe retornar en breve. Se espera ya su firma final a corto plazo.

Acuerdo del Nodo Nacional de EU-SOLARIS

El CIEMAT ya en 2023, decidió que no se iban a gestionar los acuerdos con la AE en paralelo sino secuencialmente, por lo que se enviará en breve a la AE. Discusión pendiente: ¿acuerdo indefinido con duración de 4+4 años?

POSIBLES VIAS DE INCREMENTAR LA ACTIVIDAD DEL NODO NACIONAL

Evento nacional de doctorandos (2º / 3º año)

Reunión en 1-2 días de pre-doctorales con temáticas similares en su tesis y en las que ellos presentarían su trabajo. Cofinanciación por parte de EU-SOLARIS? → Propuesta a presentar a la General Assembly en la próxima reunion (Nov. 2024)

Programa de Movilidad e Intercambio de personal científico

Coordinado y gestionado desde EU-SOLARIS. Cada entidad indicaría (con la periodicidad que se determinase) sus propuestas de movilidad en la temática de su interés y en el contexto de los Proyectos que cada entidad tuviese.

RED NACIONAL financiada por el Plan Estatal de Investigación Científica y Técnica y de Innovación

Red **SOLTERCO**, financiada por la convocatoria 2018 de acciones de dinamización “REDES DE INVESTIGACIÓN”. En el año 2024 se ha publicado la convocatoria “REDES DE INVESTIGACIÓN 2024”, también publicada en 2022. Además de las actividades habituales de networking, la red podría ayudar a financiar las actividades anteriores.