

Press release

From : EurObserv'ER consortium
Subject : EurObserv'ER **Solar Thermal Energy Barometer** published

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(20 pages, English/French language, 2 MB)

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EurObserv'ER consortium releases Solar Thermal Barometer: solar thermal market in the European Union grows +51.4%

The European solar thermal system market grew spectacularly in 2008 with over 4.6 million m² solar collector surface installed. Main drivers for this increase were the German and Southern European markets.

Translating the market growth from m² surface sold to thermal power capacity installed, taking into account decommissioning of old systems, the solar thermal capacity in service in the EU at the end of 2008 is estimated at 19982.7 MW_{th} (megawatt thermal). For the year 2007 the capacity is estimated as 16818.5 MW_{th}, indicating that the corresponding capacity has increased +18.8% in 2008. The capacity ranking puts Germany at the top with over 11.3 million m² in operation, followed by Austria (4 million m²) and Greece (3.9 million m²). (► Table 3 on pdf page 13)

The solar thermal surface installed per inhabitant varies widely throughout the EU. Cyprus is leading with 843 m² per 1000 inhabitants, which is 1.8 times more than Austria (475.8 m² per 1000 inhabitants) and 2.4 times more than Greece (345.1 m² per 1000 inhabitants). Yet Austria looks like continental Europe's top scorer with 3.5 times more collectors installed per inhabitant than in Germany, fourth in this ranking. (► Table 4 on pdf page 14)

Estimating the number of jobs and turnover generated by the European solar thermal sector is not an easy task. EurObserv'ER estimates the number of jobs generated by the solar thermal sector in the EU at over 50000. Sales should pass the 3 billion euro in 2008. (► pdf page 14)

Other topics in the Solar Thermal Barometer:

- Renewable energy policy and selected country reviews (► pdf pages 8 - 14)
- Industry news (► pdf pages 14 - 20)
- Outlook to 2010 (► pdf page 20)

About the EurObserv'ER Barometer

The EurObserv'ER barometer regularly provides publications of indicators reflecting dynamics in renewable energies (solar, wind, hydropower, geothermal and biomass) worldwide and within the European Union. In the consortium name, 'ER' refers to renewable energy in French: *énergies renouvelables*.

In July 2009 the next EurObserv'ER Barometer is expected, focusing on biofuels. EurObserv'ER provides **e-mail notifications** at each Barometer release. Signing-in by entering your e-mail address will keep you informed on future publications. See <http://www.eurobserv-er.org>

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Intelligent Energy  Europe

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The bilingual (French/English) EurObserv'ER Barometers are available for download in PDF format at the following website:

<http://www.eurobserv-er.org>

Note: the interactive database on the website (click on '*Interactive EurObserv'ER Database*' on the www.eurobserv-er.org homepage) allows you to download the Barometer data separately. This allows you to create your own graphs to be used in your publication.

Note to the editors, not for publication

On July 8th, 2009, the EurObserv'ER Consortium will present the methods and the way of working in an afternoon workshop in Brussels (14h00 - 17h00). You will have the opportunity to discuss with experts from the consortium and to ask questions or give feedback and suggestions. For joining the session, it is necessary to register by sending an e-mail to project@eurobserv-er.org (admission is free of charge). Check for more information <http://www.eurobserv-er.org/conference.asp>

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