



Communiqué, May 2013

SOLAR-ERA.NET receives 60 preproposals with total project volume of 90 million euros in its first set of transnational calls in the field of solar power generation

The first set of transnational SOLAR-ERA.NET calls PV1 and CSP1 found very good interest in the solar power industry sector and research community. Some 60 preproposals with a total project volume of around 90 million euros were submitted by the deadline set (15 May 2013).

257 partners can be counted, a fourth of them come from Germany. Numerous are also partners from Spain and France with 30 resp. 28 partners. But interest has also been considerable in a series of smaller countries and countries with an emerging solar industry as can be seen in Figure 1.

The majority (60%) of the organisations involved in the preproposals submitted belong to the categories of small and medium sized enterprises and large enterprises; research organizations have a share of 39%. Figure 2 shows the share of different types of organizations among the partners being involved in the preproposals submitted

47 out of the 60 preproposals were submitted for PV topics, 13 preproposals for CSP topics. Figure 3 shows the number of preproposals submitted per call topics.

15 countries and regions participate with their RTD and innovation programmes in these calls. The total public funding budget for both calls is 12 million euros, covering topics in photovoltaics (PV) and concentrating solar power (CSP). Innovative project proposals are sought on transnational level between different European countries strengthening the competitive position of the European solar power industry.

The participating SOLAR-ERA.NET funding organisations will now check the eligibility of the preproposals submitted and their suitability for national funding. The preproposal assessment results will be communicated to the applicants latest by mid-July 2013. Applicants who pass this first stage will then be invited to submit a full proposal until 9 October 2013. Full proposals will then be evaluated and ranked by independent experts and funding organisations. First successful projects are expected to start end of 2013 / early 2014.

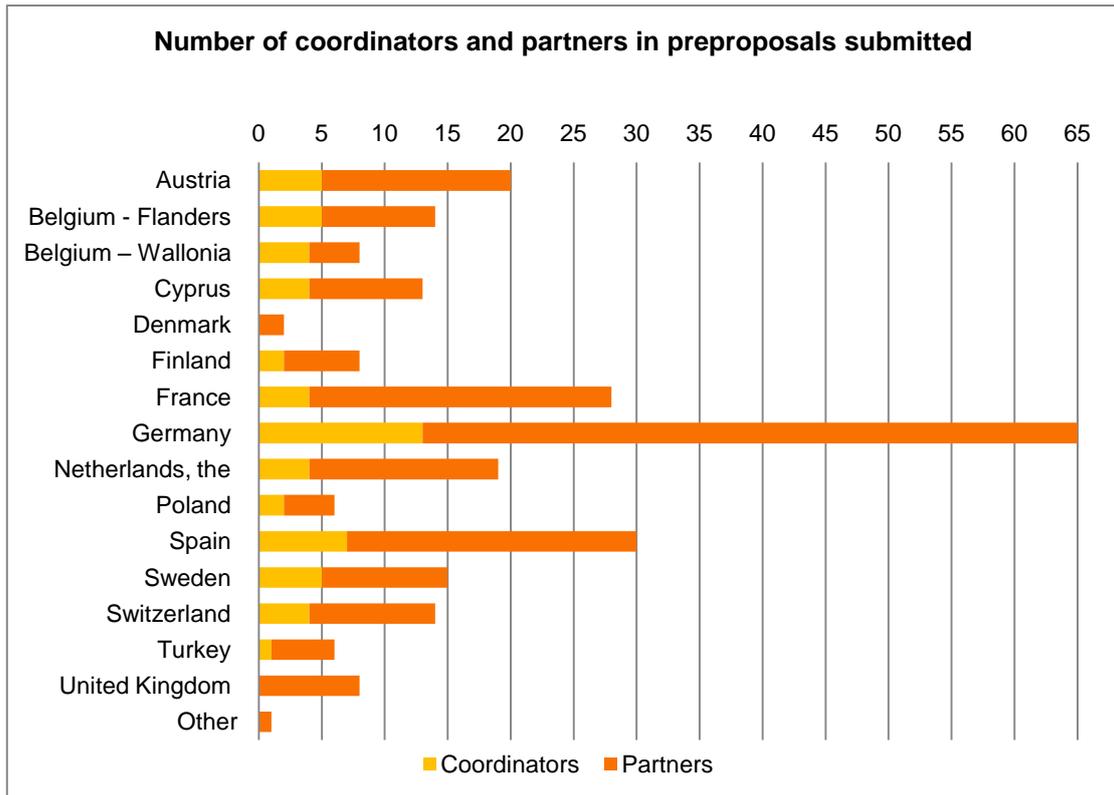


Figure 1: Number of coordinators and partners in the preproposals submitted by country / region participating in the SOLAR-ERA.NET call

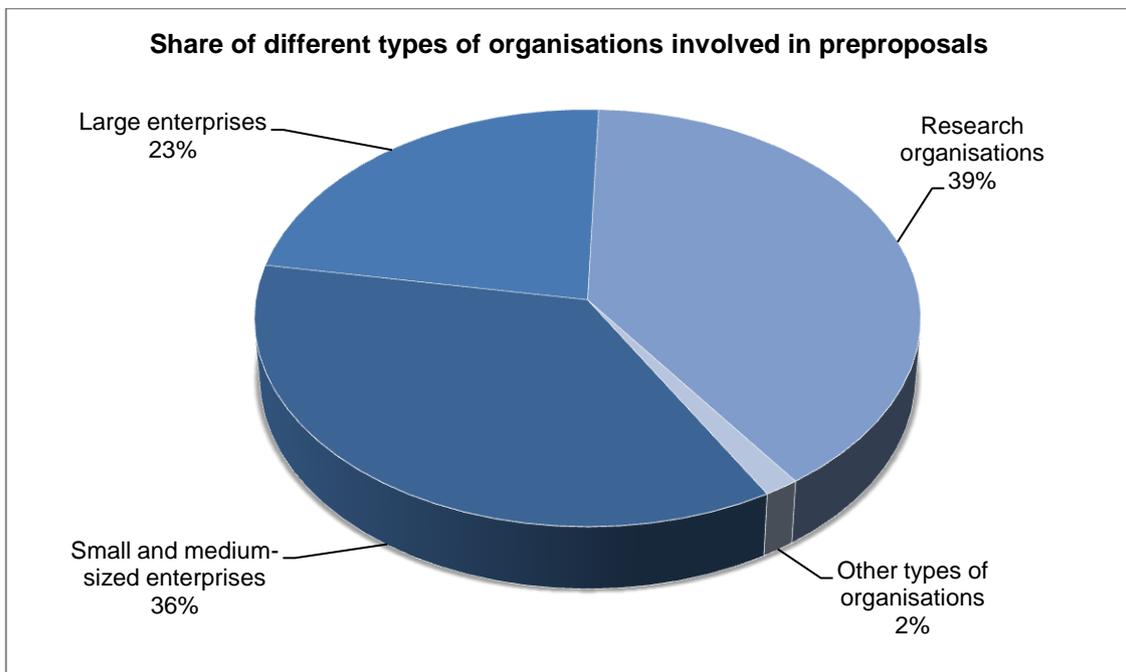


Figure 2: Share of different types of organizations among the partners involved in the preproposals submitted

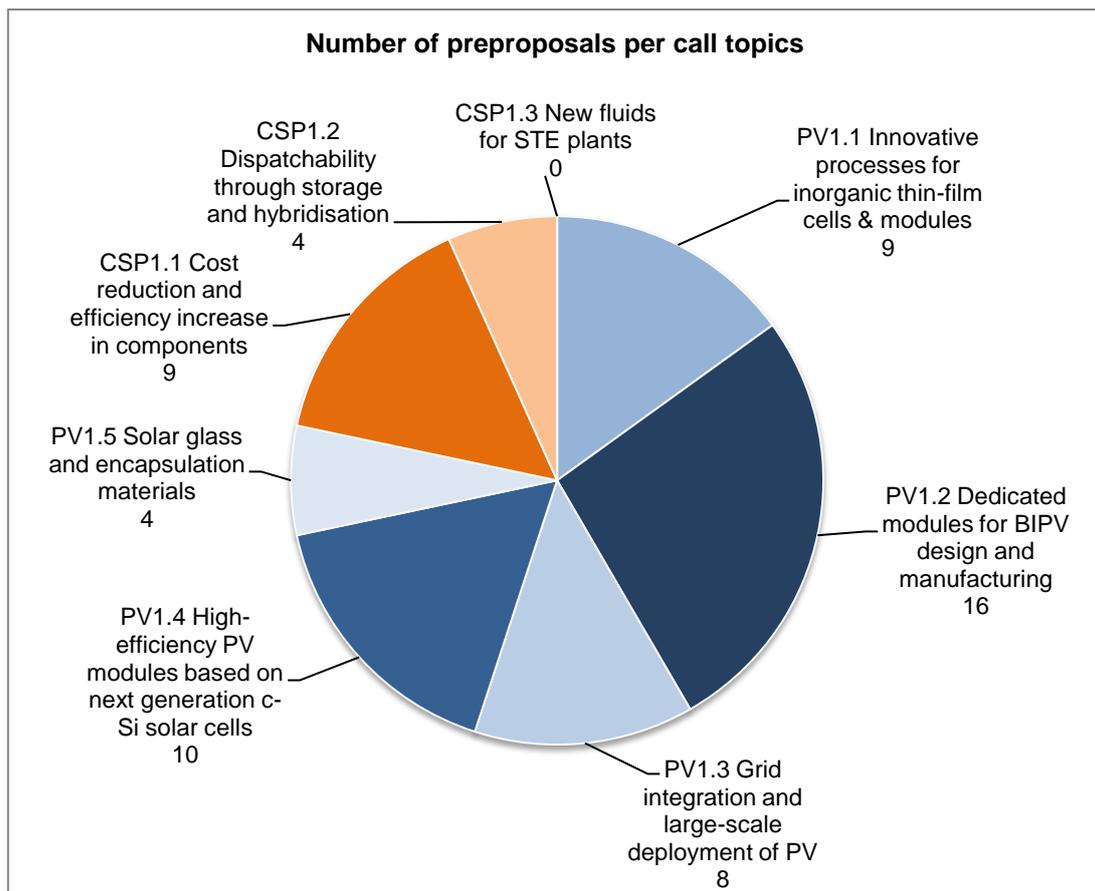


Figure 3: Number of preproposals submitted per call topic

What is SOLAR-ERA.NET?

SOLAR-ERA.NET is a FP7 funded European network of national and regional funding organisations and RTD and innovation programmes in the field of solar electricity generation, i.e. photovoltaics (PV) and concentrating solar power (CSP) / solar thermal electricity (STE).

SOLAR-ERA.NET shall contribute to reaching the objectives of the Solar Europe Industry Initiative (SEII) by carrying out the coordination and support actions for the implementation of the SEII between national and regional RTD and innovation programmes.

The SEII is embedded in the European Strategic Energy Technology Plan (SET-Plan) which aims to increase, coordinate and focus EU support on key low-carbon energy technologies in order to achieve Europe's 2020 energy objectives in the future. The SEII is a joint initiative of the industry sector, EC and member states. The objective of the SEII is to boost the development of the PV and CSP sector beyond "business-as-usual" in the areas of Research and Development, Demonstration and Deployment. For the concerned solar electricity technologies Implementation Plans have been developed setting out priorities for RTD in Europe.

The goal of SOLAR-ERA.NET is to undertake joint strategic planning, programming and activities for RTD and innovation in the area of solar electricity generation. Joint activities, namely joint calls, are defined for key topics and priorities in accordance with the Solar Europe Industry Initiative (SEII). These transnational calls are part of these activities.

More information on the call and network: www.solar-era.net / info (at) solar-era.net