

Nano4CSP

Nanomaterials for reduced maintenance costs in CSP plants

Project duration: from 12.2019 to 12.2022

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Publishable Summary

Concentrated solar thermal power (CSP) generation is a promising technology that can successfully address future energy needs in a renewable and sustainable way. Several research and commercial installations exist worldwide, with an installed capacity as of 2016 of 4.8 GW. Despite this level of penetration of the technology, the levelized cost of electricity (LCOE) still remains high as compared to conventional power plants.

As the mirror is the first component to interact with the sunlight in the energy harnessing process, its efficiency is critical to the system performance. Mirror reflectivity is one of several factors affecting the energy delivered by the solar field to the receiver (along with cosine effect, shading and blocking, spillage, and atmospheric transmissivity). Although the other factors may be calculated through knowledge of the field layout and time of day, reflectivity varies based on atmospheric conditions and therefore changes constantly and with a various rate. A 1% loss in reflectivity leads directly to a 1% increase in the LCOE, and so preventing heliostat soiling is a concern, while keeping reflectivity at a high level incurs a significant operation and maintenance (O&M) cost for plant operators. Plant O&M costs contribute about 11-15% to the LCOE, and mirror washing and water costs are a significant portion of these costs.

The overall objective of Nano4CSP is to reduce the O&M costs and water consumption while increasing the efficiency of a CSP solar collector field. This will be achieved by tuning the properties of self-cleaning surfaces to the specifications of CSP applications, by suitable treatments and coatings; most of these have already been developed by the partners for other applications. Development focuses on coatings that are applied at the mirror manufacturing stage as well as coatings that can be applied on an already deployed installation.

Project consortium

Coordinator and all contact details:

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Participating countries and financing:

Country	Number of organisations involved	Project costs in EUR	Public funding in EUR
Greece	2	264'250	250'000
Cyprus	1	174'960	174'960
Austria	1	333'439	283'423
	4	772'649	708'383

Funding agencies involved and contracts

Funding Agency	Contract N° and Title
Cyprus Research Promotion Foundation (RPF)	P2P/SOLAR/0818/0009 – ROM-PV
Ministry of Economy, Industry and Competitiveness – State Research Agency (MINECO-AEI)	PCI2019-111852-2/ IOM-PV
General Secretariat for Research and Technology (GSRT)	T11EPA4-00023 GSRT System Contract Code: 5087186