



Cofund

Deliverable 5.3

**Final Dissemination and
Exploitation and Best
Practice Report**

June 2022

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1. Introduction

This report constitutes Deliverable 5.3 Final Dissemination and Exploitation and Best Practice Report of the SOLAR-ERA.NET Cofund action, with Grant Agreement n° 691664.

The growing demand for (renewable) energy is one of the key challenges for Europe, requiring a more integrated, efficient and sustainable use of these resources. This topic calls for concerted action to structurally address the technological innovation and development at European level. To achieve this objective, work programmes have to address not only the technological aspects, but also issues such as communication, dissemination and exploitation¹. With the latter aim, the European Commission conditionally² granted the SOLAR-ERA.NET Cofund with respective rules for the participation and dissemination³.

The key mission of SOLAR-ERA.NET Cofund is articulated around a Joint Call and thereby contributes to the Research & Development Tax Incentive (RDTI) progress as well as increased cooperation between the national RDTI programmes involved. The Joint Call was carried out by national research and technology development (RTD) and innovation programmes and national funding agencies in the field of solar electricity generation, i.e. photovoltaics (PV) and concentrating solar power (CSP) / solar thermal electricity (STE). The Joint Call was conducted by eleven countries: Austria, Cyprus, France, Germany, The Netherlands, Poland, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey and United Kingdom.

The topical focus of the SOLAR-ERA.NET Cofund Joint Call was on strengthening the industrial manufacturing base through innovative manufacturing techniques, mass production, new products and services as well as integration of solar energy technologies in the energy system. The objectives of the proposals submitted were in line with the strategic targets defined in the Strategic European Technology (SET-) Plan⁴.

In this context, SOLAR-ERA.NET Cofund shall contribute to substantial cost reductions of solar power technologies, economic development of the European solar power sector and to reinforce Europe's strong position in solar power technologies. Reducing technology costs and advancing manufacturing technologies, applications and grid / system integration are essential to increasing the deployment of solar power technologies as crucial elements of the Low Carbon Energy strategy set out in the Energy Package. This way, SOLAR-ERA.NET Cofund shall greatly contribute to achieve the ambitious climate change targets, to sustainable, secure, cost-efficient energy supply and to provide growth and jobs in the solar and related industry sectors providing also a solid industrial and technological base.

SOLAR-ERA.NET Cofund started on 1 November 2016 and ended on 30 April 2022. The key items in the timeline for SOLAR-ERA.NET Cofund and its Joint Call are given in Table 1. The Call was set up as a two-step submission procedure, consisting of a preproposal phase and a full proposal phase.

¹ Clean Energy Transition (TOPIC ID: [HORIZON-CL5-2021-D3-01-04](#))

² The grant Agreement sets out the rights and obligations and the terms and conditions applicable to the grant awarded to the beneficiaries for implementing the SOLAR-ERA.NET Cofund

³ The Consortium Agreement is based upon REGULATION (EU) No 1290/2013 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 11 December 2013 laying down the rules for the participation and dissemination in "Horizon 2020 – the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (2014-2020)"

⁴ SET-Plan - Declaration on Strategic Targets in the context of an Initiative for Global Leadership in Photovoltaics respectively Solar Thermal Electricity available on the solar-era.net [website](#)

Further details and elaboration of the topics and process can be found in the corresponding guidelines for users of the Electronic Submission System available on the [solar-era.net website](https://solar-era.net).

Table 1: Key dates for SOLAR-ERA.NET Cofund and its Joint Call

Date	Activities
01 November 2016	Start of SOLAR-ERA.NET Cofund
16 November 2016	Deadline for signing consortium agreement
21 November 2016	Pre-opening webinar
05 December 2016	Launch of the SOLAR-ERA.NET Cofund Joint Call
12 December 2016	Brokerage webinar
20 February 2017	Submission of preproposals
06 April 2017	Communication on applications selected for full proposal round
14 June 2017	Submission of full proposals
End of October 2017	Final funding decisions communicated to proposers
End 2017 / early 2018	Start of projects funded
16 May 2019	Smart Solar Power in Europe Event in Munich
31 December 2019 – 31 July 2021	End of projects
06 October 2021	Exchange of Experience Webinar
30 April 2022	Report to EC
30 April 2022	End of SOLAR-ERA.NET Cofund

This public report is defined as Deliverable (D) 5.3: Final Dissemination and Exploitation and Best Practice Report and shall summarise key activities related to the SOLAR-ERA.NET Cofund and the Joint Call carried out². This is shown in two perspectives: activities carried out by the SOLAR-ERA.NET Cofund consortium composed of national RTDI programmes and by participants in transnational projects funded by SOLAR-ERA.NET Cofund.

This document is structured as follows: first the consortium activities contributing to information dissemination are depicted. Second, the dissemination conducted by the funded projects is summarised and anonymized from the transnational project reports. Third and final, the conclusion and outlook is given with respect to best practice.

2. Consortium activities

The SOLAR-ERA.NET Cofund consortium addressed the former and latter EU objectives by distributing information regarding the call and reporting the results using different media. The consortium investigated and applied communication tools and strategies for improved interaction with stakeholders and dissemination of results, accounting for the needs of target audience. The software infrastructure was developed with regard to promoting the Joint Call and the future exploitation of the results of the research activities. The action is expected to mobilise and promote direct interaction between the scientific community and civil society/practitioners. Furthermore, the action is expected to achieve sensibilisation of citizens, business, policy-makers and other relevant audience towards climate change, based on more efficient, transparent and engaging dissemination of authoritative and timely science-based information originating from EU-funded climate change research projects.¹

Official Website and dedicated Software

The infrastructure tools for relevant stakeholders was provided by the consortium. One platform, the official SOLAR-ERA.NET website (www.solar-era.net), was used to i) advertise the Joint Call and provide all relevant information to the potential applicants and interested stakeholders in a compact and easy-to-use format and ii) communicate the research results available. An overview of the website is shown in Figure 1. The website provides a general area with public information and a password protected Member-Area to access confidential information.

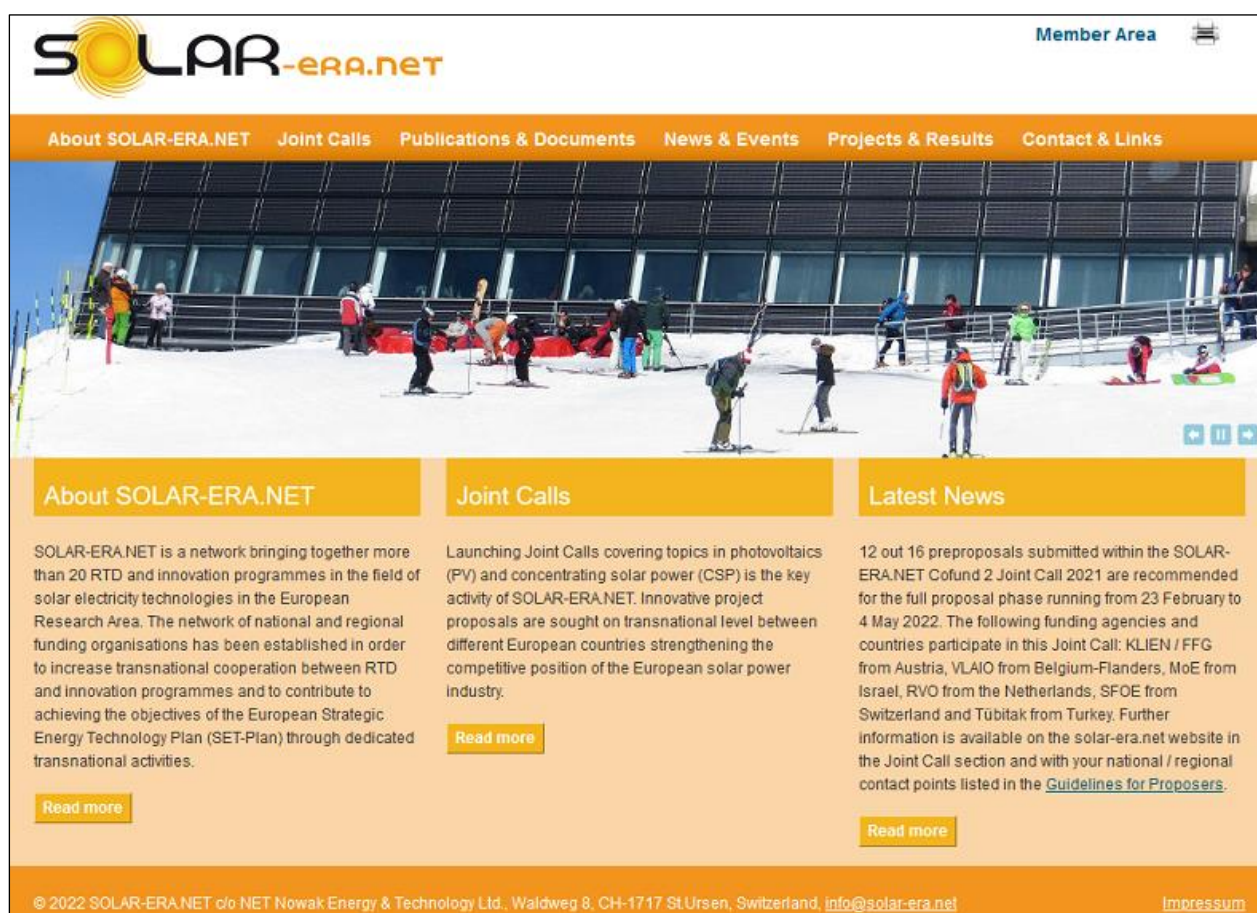


Figure 1: Start page of the official SOLAR-ERA.NET website. Screen shot taken in April 2022.

An online call management system, the so-called Electronic Submission System (www.submission-solar-era.net), linked to the SOLAR-ERA.NET website was set up to enable the submission, online eligibility check and the evaluation of the transnational proposals. The project partners uploaded all relevant project data on the online tool. The Consortium Members (Funding Agencies) and the Independent Experts had access to this portal with authorization to read but not to modify any data of the proposals submitted. Their evaluation results were also collected in the system, which means, that all relevant data is stored and accessible for authorized groups. Figure 2 shows an overview of the submission system.

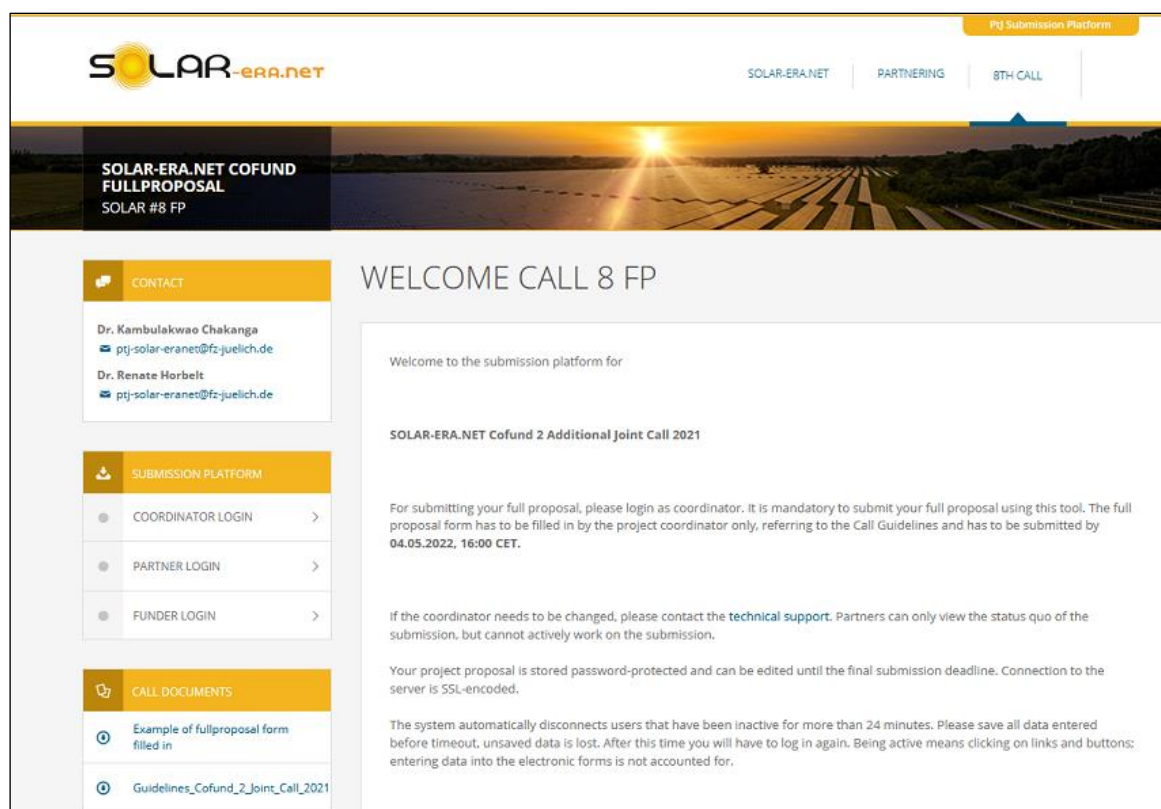


Figure 2: Start page of the Electronic Submission System. Based on the good experience with the system in the SOLAR-ERA.NET Cofund Joint Call, the system has been used for further joint calls. Screen shot taken in April 2022.

Dissemination events

The organisation of and participation in events was one of the key dissemination activities. All dissemination events were communicated through the national channels as well as on the transnational level, mainly through the SOLAR-ERA.NET website and direct contacts.

Pre-opening information webinar

In a "Pre-opening information webinar" on 21 November 2016 the core details (e.g. funding budget, participating countries, application process, funding criteria etc.) of the upcoming SOLAR-ERA.NET Cofund call were made known to interested stakeholders and trade audience. The presentation given is available on the [solar-era.net website](https://www.solar-era.net/files/1514/7980/7131/Solar_Eranet_Cofund_Competition_Pre-Opening_Webinar_Slide_Deck_211116.pdf)⁵.

⁵ https://www.solar-era.net/files/1514/7980/7131/Solar_Eranet_Cofund_Competition_Pre-Opening_Webinar_Slide_Deck_211116.pdf

Brokerage webinar

A brokerage webinar, held on 12 December 2016, generated a lot of interest. More than 100 persons and organisations participated in the event. One main goal was to provide the audience with key aspects of the SOLAR-ERA.NET Cofund. Furthermore, twelve project ideas were presented, including the possibility to search for suitable partners for a highly efficient consortium. The presentations given (including for project partner search) can be found on the [solar-era.net website](https://www.solar-era.net/files/5014/8239/0687/SOLAR_ERA_NET_Cofund_Competition_Brokerage_Webinar_Presentations.pdf)⁶.

Smart Solar Power in Europe

The European networks SOLAR-ERA.NET and ERA-Net Smart Energy Systems (ERA-Net SES) organised the „Smart Solar Power in Europe“ event in the framework of Intersolar in Munich on 16 May 2019. Figure 3 shows the brochure head page of the event. The brochure was made available to the general public.



Figure 3: Brochure head page of the “Smart Solar Power in Europe” event co-organised by SOLAR-ERA.NET and Smart Energy Systems ERA-Net

⁶ https://www.solar-era.net/files/5014/8239/0687/SOLAR_ERA_NET_Cofund_Competition_Brokerage_Webinar_Presentations.pdf

Some 80 stakeholders participated in this very successful event. Figure 4 shows photos taken during the event and provide an insight on the event setting.



Figure 4: Photos of the “Smart Solar Power in Europe” event co-organised by SOLAR-ERA.NET and Smart Energy Systems ERA-Net with view on audience and podium

The event gave the possibility to

- learn about the funding opportunities provided by SOLAR-ERA.NET and ERA-Net SES
- get insight into cornerstones of the EC Strategic Energy Technology Plan for solar power and smart energy systems
- hear about the new legal framework for Local Energy Communities.
- exchange with potential project partners and representatives from national funding agencies.
- explore topics and build new consortia in view of the upcoming Joint Calls.
- identify success factors based on the experience and lessons learnt within projects supported by SOLAR-ERA.NET and ERA-Net SES.

Plenary sessions with presentations of Funding Agencies and project coordinators gave an insight in the European research networks and enabled an exchange of innovative project results with the participation of stakeholders involved in transnational research projects funded under the SOLAR-ERA.NET Cofund umbrella. Additionally, three parallel workshops, focussing on “Advanced industrial PV technologies / Emerging PV technologies”, “PV integration in buildings and infrastructures” and “Solar power in smart local energy systems” attracted the attention of the audience and gave the possibility for scientific discussions. The programme and presentations can be downloaded on the [solar-era.net website](https://www.solar-era.net)⁷.

Webinar "Exchange of Experiences"

Sixteen research and innovation projects were funded under the umbrella of SOLAR-ERA.NET within the co-funded joint call launched in 2016. The webinar, held on 6 October 2021, presented the unique opportunity to share the outcomes, results and experiences from most of these highly innovative, transnational projects with the project participants and interested stakeholders from industry, research and policy. Figure 5 shows the brochure head page of the “Exchange of Experiences” webinar with presentations on all 16 transnational projects cofounded under the SOLAR-ERA.NET umbrella.

⁷ <https://www.solar-era.net/news-events/smart-solar-power-europe-event-munich-16th-may-2019/>



Figure 5: Brochure head page of the “Exchange of Experiences” webinar with presentations on all 16 transnational projects cofounded under the SOLAR-ERA.NET umbrella.

The aim of the webinar was to

- exchange and highlight results and benefits of the projects.
- learn about noteworthy dissemination & exploitation activities which were realised.
- share experience and identify critical / success factors for transnational projects in the ERA-NET (Cofund) scheme and future joint calls (added value, suggestions for improvements, etc.)

The webinar was organised into three parallel sessions, focussing on “Innovative and low-cost PV manufacturing issues”, “Advanced PV products and applications” and “PV system integration + CSP cost reduction and system integration”. The meeting allowed for the exchange of the results of transnational projects ended or still running the SOLAR-ERA.NET consortium and promoting the upcoming joint call. The presentations are available on the [solar-era.net website](https://www.solar-era.net/news-events/exchange-experiences-webinar-6th-oct-2021/)⁸.

Conferences

SOLAR-ERA.NET Cofund activities and opportunities have been regularly – orally and visually – presented at major events and therefore reaching out to the target audiences. Figure 6 shows an example of a Visual presentation held at the EU PV SEC in September 2018.

⁸ <https://www.solar-era.net/news-events/exchange-experiences-webinar-6th-oct-2021/>



European Network of National and Regional Research and Innovation Programmes – Recent Developments of Joint Transnational Calls

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Network and mission

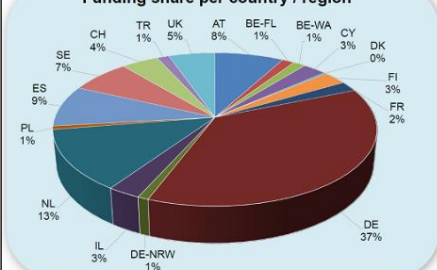
SOLAR-ERA.NET is a European network of national and regional funding organisations in the field of solar electricity generation, i.e. photovoltaics (PV) and solar thermal electricity (STE). SOLAR-ERA.NET brings together more than 20 RTD and innovation programmes throughout the European Research Area.

→ The key mission is to launch joint transnational calls for innovative, industry-led research projects.

Key figures

1 network
6 joint calls launched (preproposal phase in 6th joint call)
12 topics (up to 8 PV topics and 4 CSP topics)
17 countries and regions participating in joint calls
110 full proposals submitted (5 calls)
208 preproposals submitted (5 calls)
313 partners involved in projects funded (5 calls)
991 partners involved in preproposals (5 calls)
→ 60 projects running or about to start (5 calls)
→ 75 MEUR project volume incl. 49,5 MEUR funding

Funding share per country / region



Top call topics with ≥ 10 projects funded

- High-efficiency PV modules based on next generation c-Si solar cells
- Dedicated modules for BIPV design & manufacturing
- Innovative processes for inorganic thin-film cells and modules
- System and grid integration and large-scale deployment of PV

A typical project involves

- 3 - 5 partners from 3 - 4 countries
- 1,2 MEUR project costs incl. 0,8 MEUR funding

Added value and achievements

- Networking and collaboration between countries across Europe
- Best practice for supporting projects on the transnational level
- Overview on European research and insight into trends
- Common initiatives and implementation activities
- New industry-led innovation opportunities and partnerships in harsh and competitive environment

Next actions and opportunities

SOLAR-ERA.NET's 6th Call will close on 2nd October 2018. The next Call is planned to be launched in spring 2019. The two calls have a total funding budget of > 30 MEUR. PV topics in the 6th Call are A) Advanced industrial PV technologies, B) Emerging PV technologies, C) Building and infrastructure integrated PV, D) Operation and diagnosis of PV plants, E) CSP low cost and next generation technologies - aiming at Technology Readiness Levels of 3 to 7. More info: solar-era.net

SOLAR-ERA.NET Countries and Partners*

- NET Nowak Energy & Technology Ltd., Switzerland (coordinator)
- Federal Department for Environment, Transport, Energy and Communication, Switzerland
- Project Management Jülich (PJ), Forschungszentrum Jülich (FZJ), Germany
- Project Management Organisation Energy, Technology, Sustainability (ETN), Forschungszentrum Jülich (FZJ), Germany – North-Rhine-Westphalia
- Ministerio de economía, industria y competitividad, Agencia estatal de investigación, Spain
- Centro para el desarrollo tecnológico (CDT), Spain
- Agence nationale de la recherche (ANR), France
- Agence de l'Environnement et de la Maîtrise de l'Energie (ADEME), France
- Service Public de Wallonie (SPW), Belgium-Wallonia
- Hermesfonds / Agentschap Innoveren & Ondernemen (VLAIO), Belgium-Flanders
- Narodowe Centrum Badań i Rozwoju (NCBR), Poland
- Rijksdienst voor Ondernemend Nederland (RVO), The Netherlands
- Ministero dell'Istruzione, dell'Università e della Ricerca (MIUR), Italy
- Geniki Grammatia Erenias Kai Technologias (GSRT), Greece
- Research Promotion Foundation (RPF), Cyprus
- Klima- und Energiefonds, Austria
- Österreichische Forschungsförderungsgesellschaft (FFG), Austria
- Swedish Energy Agency, Sweden
- Ministry of National Infrastructure, Energy and Water Resources, Israel
- Türkiye Bilimsel ve Teknolojik Araştırma Kurumu (TUBITAK), Turkey

* Partners involved in SOLAR-ERA.NET Cofund and Cofund 2.



SOLAR-ERA.NET has been supported by the EC within FP7 Project n° 321571, and Horizon 2020 Project n° 691664 and 786483



Pictures taken from projects funded AERII, SolPieOpt, InGrid, PV4FACADES, SITEF, InnoModu and THESEUS

Figure 6: Visual presentation at EU PV SEC in September 2018

Dissemination activities and strategy on funding agency level

In this section two interesting approaches of the consortium's dissemination strategy are explained in more detail. The participation of Austria in SOLAR-ERA.NET projects significantly highlights the importance of transnational energy research in the field of photovoltaics. Out of a total of 88 SOLAR-ERA.NET research projects (including 16 projects supported within SOLAR-ERA.NET Cofund), Austria was able to participate in 20 of them and thus makes an important contribution to the innovation leadership in Europe and is thus driving the international exchange of knowledge forward. In order to underline the importance of transnational energy research on European level, the Austrian Research Promotion Agency (FFG) organized a so called "[Science Brunch](https://www.klimafonds.gv.at/event/science-brunch-kraft-der-sonne-nutzen/)"⁹ in autumn 2020. Figure 7 gives an overview of the programme and projects. During this event six projects funded within the SOLAR-ERA.NET framework (including three projects supported within SOLAR-ERA.NET Cofund) were presented by the project coordinators.



ANREISE:
Öffentliche Verkehrsmittel:
U2-Station "Donauwörth"
Autobusse der Linie 77A, 79A und 79B
Stationen sind unmittelbar vor dem Haus

Program

SCIENCE BRUNCH
www.klimafonds.gv.at

klimatenergiefonds

Photovoltaik: Die Kraft der Sonne nutzen!

Donnerstag, 8. Oktober 2020, 09:30 - 14:30
Riverbox, Johann-Böhm-Platz 1, 1020 Wien

In Kooperation mit:
FFG
Bundesministerium Klimaschutz, Umwelt, Energie, Mobilität, Innovation und Technologie
SOLAR-ERA.NET
Technische Plattform Photovoltaik

IPERMON: Innovative Performance Monitoring System for Improved Reliability and Optimized Levelized Cost of Electricity
Projektnummer: 853373
Koordinator: Gartner Instruments GmbH
Projektleitung: Jürgen Suterlin: jueergen.suterlin@gartner-instruments.com
Partner: University of Cyprus, FHOSS Research Centre for Sustainable Energy
Förderprogramm: SOLAR-ERA.NET 4, Ausschreibung 2014
Dauer: 01.04.2016 – 30.09.2019
Budget: 300.000 €

LiquidSi 2.0: Liquid phase deposition of Functional Silicon Layers for Cost-Effective High Efficiency Solar Cells
Projektnummer: 858491
Koordinator: Technische Universität Graz, Institut für Anorganische Chemie
Projektleitung: Harald Singer: harald.singer@tugraz.at
Partner: Evoxik Croatia AG
Förderprogramm: SOLAR-ERA.NET 4, Ausschreibung 2016
Dauer: 01.04.2017 – 30.09.2020
Budget: 373.633 €

Cover Power: Smart Glass Coatings for Innovative BIPV Solutions
Projektnummer: 863309
Koordinator: Joanneum Research Forschungsgesellschaft mbH
Projektleitung: Raimund Tschering: raimund.tschering@joanneum.at
Partner: E.ON Energy Research Center, E.ON Österreichisches Forschungsinstitut für Chemie und Technik, E.ON Solar Technik GmbH, CSEM SA Centre Suisse d'Électronique et de Microtechnique
Förderprogramm: Solar-ERA.NET Cofund 1, Ausschreibung 2016
Dauer: 01.10.2018 – 30.09.2021
Budget: 363.037 €

Bi-Face: High-efficiency bifacial PV Modules and Systems for flat roofs
Projektnummer: 843515
Koordinator: AIT Austrian Institute of Technology GmbH
Projektleitung: Shikhar Jain: shikhar.jain@ait.ac.at
Partner: Silicon Austria Labs (SAL) (A), KIDDO Photonics GmbH (A), TNO (NL), Solar Electricity Development B.V. (NL), Tempres Systems B.V. (NL)
Förderprogramm: Solar-ERA.NET Cofund 1, Ausschreibung 2016
Dauer: 01.03.2018 – 30.09.2020
Budget: 580.905 €

1500 SiC: Develop a new photovoltaic inverter with SiC for full power operation at 1500V
Projektnummer: 863519
Koordinator: Infineon
Projektleitung: Herbert Patitsch: herbert.patitsch@infineon.com
Partner: GAMESA ELECTRIC SA, INFINION Technologies Austria AG, ETH Zurich
Förderprogramm: Solar-ERA.NET Cofund 1, Ausschreibung 2016
Dauer: 01.03.2018 – 30.06.2020
Budget: 501.946 €

Duracis: Advanced global encapsulation solutions for long term stability in industrial flexible CIGS photovoltaic technology
Projektnummer: 858494
Koordinator: Sunplast
Projektleitung: Andreas Zimmermann: andreas.zimmermann@sunplast.at
Partner: Universität Innsbruck, Lenzing Plastics GmbH
Förderprogramm: SOLAR-ERA.NET 4, Ausschreibung 2016
Dauer: 01.06.2017 – 31.05.2020
Budget: 286.747 €

Figure 7: Brochure and list of projects which were presented at the Science Brunch.

⁹ <https://www.klimafonds.gv.at/event/science-brunch-kraft-der-sonne-nutzen/>

As most Funding Agencies, the German Funding Agency “Project Management Jülich (PtJ)” uses a national internet portal “Enargus” (www.enargus.de) for dissemination purposes. With the help of this database, the interested stakeholders can obtain the basic data of the project (including duration, project identification (ID), budget) as well as the general objective. In addition, the national final report can also be accessed via this portal. Figure 8 shows an overview of the database “Enargus” available for all interested stakeholders.



The screenshot shows the Enargus portal interface. At the top, there is a search bar with the text '0324224a' and a magnifying glass icon. Below the search bar, the page is titled 'FÖRDERPROJEKTE' with a 'zurück' button. The main content area displays the following information:

- Verbundvorhaben:** RHINO - Realisierung von hocheffizienten industriellen n-Typ-Solar-Zellen, Teilvorhaben: Selektiver Emittent und Prozessintegration
- Förderzeitraum:** 2018-01-01 2021-03-31
- Bewilligte Summe:** 709.993,00 €
- Ausführende Stelle:** Fraunhofer-Institut für Solare Energiesysteme (ISE)
- Förderkennzeichen:** 0324224A
- Leistungsplansystematik:** Kristallines Silizium Gesamtentwicklung [EB1014]
- Verbundvorhaben:** Realisierung von hocheffizienten industriellen n-Typ-Solar-Zellen
- Zuwendungsgeber:** BMWi
- Projekträger:** Forschungszentrum Jülich GmbH
- Förderprogramm:** Energietechnologien (BMWi)

Below this information, there is a section titled 'Kurzbeschreibung' which provides a detailed description of the project's goals and objectives.

Figure 8: All relevant project data as well as the final national report of German subprojects within SOLAR-ERA.NET projects are available on the internet portal “Enargus”.

The transnational final reports of the projects available on solar-era.net website include national contractual data in order to facilitate the search for further information on national level and more specifically in the national portals.

3. Project partners activities

The dissemination conducted within the scope of the transnational projects is summarised anonymously in this section and the exploitation of the results is discussed accordingly. The public final reports of the projects are listed on the [solar-era.net website](http://www.solar-era.net)¹⁰. The data discussed in the following section is taken from deliverable 5.2 - Impact Assessment Report¹¹.

As a result of the funding, 37 peer and 41 non-peer reviewed articles were published with or submitted to academic publishers. These publications consolidate the findings in the scientific community. Furthermore, the project partners were required to refer to SOLAR-ERA.NET Cofund in their publications, exhibitions, lectures and press information concerning results of the SOLAR-ERA.NET Cofund projects¹². Hence, the 63 citations to publications generated in the program are expected to multiply the impact of dissemination.

Through the 24 undertaken media coverage, opinion pieces or interviews/appearances in all types of mass media, the awareness of the programme was enhanced. Four events targeting end users organised by the project such as conferences, side events or workshops were also conducted. A total of 24 presentations targeting end users given by project participants (including participation in panel debates) were organised. The participation in 50 conferences / events (not organised by project partners) are anticipated to generate non-quantifiable spill-over effects, in the positive sense. In summary, the project results were disseminated successfully.

According to Article 42 - Protection of results³, “where results are capable of or may reasonably be expected to be capable of commercial or industrial exploitation, the participant owning those results shall examine the possibility of protecting them”. The programme generated 14 patent/license applications. Securing of intellectual property is namely an important aspect of maintaining the competitiveness of the involved industries. The program successfully addressed the goal defined in article 44 - Transfer and licensing of results “is in accordance with the interests of developing the competitiveness of the Union economy,...”.

Furthermore, the statistics suggest that the programme has supported capacity building in areas requiring specific resources and expertise. In total, 260 researchers were involved in the SOLAR-ERA.NET Cofund program¹. The 16 projects funded show that 5 PhD and 3 Master thesis were conducted within the scope of the project. This is an important aspect to promote and sustain the use and continued development of the addressed technologies.

Cooperation and planning for further exploitation of actions results during and after the project end is most likely¹. A total of 300 project internal meetings (face-to-face, teleconference, videoconference, etc.) were held by the project partners. An intensive transfer of knowledge can therefore be expected, which can contribute to supporting scientific collaboration and exploitation of synergies across the EU. In summary, the project results were exploited successfully.

¹⁰ <http://www.solar-era.net/publications-documents/>

¹¹ Deliverable 5.2 - Impact Assessment – statistic evaluation of the transnational final reports

¹² The „Guidelines for proposers“ lays down the rules for participation for the Joint Call

4. Conclusion and outlook

This report has presented key activities conducted by the consortium and the projects funded under the SOLAR-ERA.NET framework. In general, a successful dissemination and exploitation can be reported as indicated by the numerous activities.

The consortium has provided stakeholders with corresponding platforms, the official SOLAR-ERA.NET website (www.solar-era.net) and electronic submission system for their respective use and needs. The implemented software infrastructure regards future exploitation of the results and research activities. With respect to digitalisation, further aspects can be addressed in future such as a central platform for both communication, reporting, processing of documents by different entities and statistical analysis for EU deliverable.

The SOLAR-ERA.NET projects aimed to develop photovoltaics (PV) and concentrating solar power (CSP) / solar thermal electricity (STE) technologies from a lower to a higher technology readiness level (on average TRL 4 to TRL 7). The overall statistics of the projects funded suggest that the programme has supported capacity building and securing of intellectual property in areas requiring specific resources and expertise. By doing this, public and private investments in clean energy technologies development and deployment can be leveraged and capitalised to ensure adequate exploitation of results across Europe as needed¹.

The cross-fertilisation of research results is an important component of the Cofund and includes support to upscaling the efforts of individual projects. The project results were disseminated and demonstrate the added value of transnational cooperation projects. Different media and channels were exploited for the dissemination to address a broad range of audiences.

Internal and external communication was a key aspect to conduct the SOLAR-ERA.NET Cofund successfully. The already mentioned technical progress with a digitised communication system would expedite the communication and several processes. The preparation of the call with a standardised procedure defined on a transnational level would simplify the process. There is also room for improvement, especially regarding measures to avoid post-transnational call procedures on national level, which are time- and resource-consuming. Furthermore, more intensive networking of funding agencies involved (e.g. exchange programmes) would be advantageous for future endeavours. This can contribute to knowledge exchange and networking European platforms.

Acknowledgement



Figure 9: Organisations involved in promoting the SOLAR-ERA.NET Cofund Joint Call and providing support and funding to innovative industrially relevant projects.

SOLAR-ERA.NET was supported by the European Commission within the EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation HORIZON 2020 (Cofund ERA-NET Action, N° 691664). The transnational projects are supported under the umbrella of SOLAR-ERA.NET Cofund by their national funding agencies and by the European Commission via EU-Top-Up provided to the funding agencies for co-funding transnational projects.