



Press Release Geothermal Energy in Europe: On the Up!

7th December 2011, Milan

Delegates gathering at the third edition of the official conference of the European Geothermal Energy Council, GeoPower Europe, have been informed of the strong growth in the deep geothermal market in Europe. Over 250 high-level experts from industry, research and the public sector have heard how the geothermal market is witnessing a strong growth, but to maintain and build upon this strong foundation, more support and investment is needed to make geothermal an even bigger part of Europe's renewable energy mix.

The launch of the **EGEC Deep Geothermal Market Report 2011**, with its extensive data on the market in Europe, demonstrates that the market is growing, but expert analyses of geothermal electricity production and District Heating underling that there are a number of drivers to this growth, which need continued attention to keep the positive momentum.

The European geothermal industry highlights the fundamental contribution that geothermal can make to Europe's renewable energy mix, and calls on policymakers at local, national and European level to ensure:

- Adequate and tailored support schemes, including risk insurance and Feed-in-Tariffs to guarantee geothermal development
- Funding for R&D in the geothermal sector, decreasing overall costs for the technology, and supporting further technological development
- Easier access to financing instruments, to encourage further project development and enable full expansion of the market into all European countries.

EGEC President Dr Burkhard Sanner reaffirms the necessity of increasing support for an investing in geothermal now by underlining:

“Geothermal energy receives comparably less support than other renewable energy sources, and In spite of this, there are continued positive trends emerging, in terms of number of new geothermal power plants, and geothermal District Heating systems. This means that by 2015, there will be significantly more installed capacity for geothermal electricity and heating.”

EGEC Deep Geothermal Market Report 2011

EGEC is celebrating the launch of the first 'EGEC Deep Geothermal Market Report', an authoritative and extensive publication which succinctly analyses and sets out the state of the market development for deep geothermal in Europe. Divided into 2 sections; firstly, geothermal electricity and secondly, geothermal District Heating, this report is a vital tool in showing the strength of the geothermal market, and highlighting what factors are crucial for tackling current challenges.



Geothermal Electricity

The market is heating up, and the next decade will witness a sharp rise in the number of geothermal power plants (estimated capacity of over 3000MWe within a decade, using forecasts and available data), especially EGS (Enhanced Geothermal System) plants. However, there needs to be further support and investment, both from policymakers and investors, to truly exploit the vast potential geothermal resources for electricity.

Geothermal District Heating

A resurgence of interest in this market is prompted by a better understanding of the possibilities for meeting Europe's heating & cooling demand with GeoDH. There are 212 existing systems in Europe, with another 200 under consideration.

ANNEX

EGEC Deep Geothermal Market Report 2011

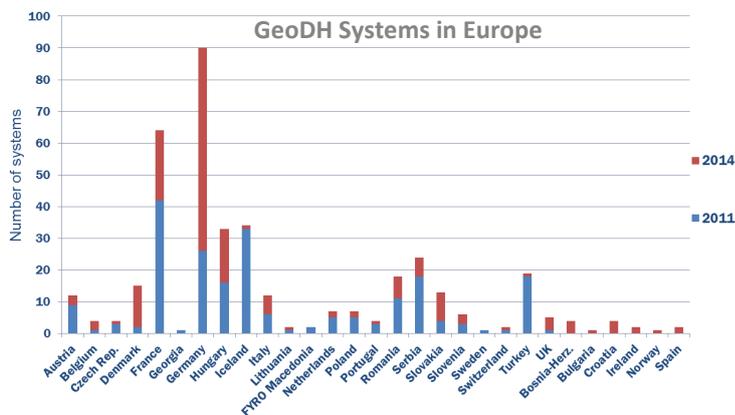
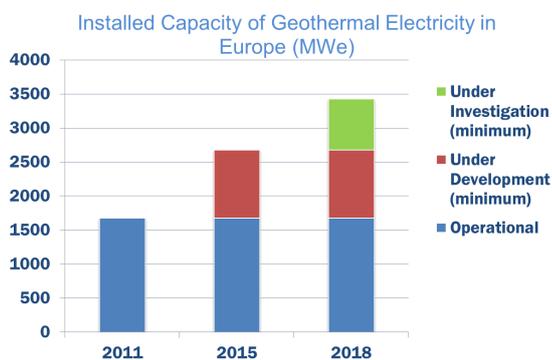
Key Facts

Geothermal Electricity

- 3 Technologies: Conventional (Hydrothermal), Binary (ORC or Kalina Cycle) or EGS (Enhanced Geothermal Systems)
- 59 Geothermal Power Plants in 2011
- Total Installed Capacity in Europe: 1.6 GWe
- Producing 10,9 TWh of Electric Power
- Future: More than 3,000 MWe Installed Capacity within a decade

Geothermal District Heating

- 212 GeoDH systems in operation in Europe
- Total capacity of approx. 4,700 MWth
- Main GeoDH markets today are in France (42 systems), Iceland (33), Germany (26) and Hungary (16).
- By 2015, 200 new plants will bring another circa 4,000MWth



The main advantages of Geothermal Power are:

- It is a Renewable Energy Source (RES): the heat from the earth is inexhaustible
- It delivers heat and power 24 hours a day, throughout the year
- It is available all over Europe with minor land use
- It is a local resource, creating local employment
- It can be modulated according to type of resources, to size and nature of equipment, and in order to meet demands
- It supplies base-load energy with a load factor higher than 90%

