PRESS RELEASE

The geothermal energy market grows exponentially, but needs the right market conditions to thrive

EGEC releases the European Geothermal Market Report 2019

Brussels, 8 June 2020 – In Europe, the geothermal energy market has been growing fast in 2019, but the policy framework has been proven crucial in affecting its development. These findings come from the European Geothermal Market Report 2019 published today by the European Geothermal Energy Council (EGEC).

At the end of 2019, in Europe there were 130 geothermal electricity plants in operation, 36 projects under development and 124 projects in the planning phase for a total 3.3 GWe capacity. This predicts that the number of operating power plants, with base load, could double in the next 5-8 years.

Europe is a leading market for geothermal district heating and cooling systems. In 2019, there were 5.5 GWth of installed capacity in 25 European countries, with many new planned projects throughout Europe compared to 2018. The status of geothermal district heating and cooling reflects a stronger interest for this renewable resource and the possibility to implement it almost everywhere in Europe, covering 25% of the EU population. The trend of ongoing projects anticipates a rapid acceleration and a diversification in leading markets.

Figure 1 - Installed capacity for geothermal electricity and district heating by country in 2019 (Mw)
In 2019, the European geothermal heat pump market reached a milestone of 2 million heat pumps installed. The technology became mainstream in certain national markets, proving its maturity to drive the shift of the heating sector to renewables.

Overall, the use of geothermal energy can scale up very rapidly with the right policies and market conditions: stable policy framework, proper insurance schemes, sound Research & Development & Innovation policies, carbon price and stopping the support for fossil fuels, including gas.

On the contrary, the stop-and-go policies witnessed in certain countries (notably Germany and France) represent a huge disruption for geothermal technologies, hinder the market and ultimately slow down the uptake of urgently-needed solutions to decarbonise the European economies.

Philippe Dumas, EGEC Secretary General, said “Geothermal energy is sparking enthusiasm throughout Europe, and not only for heating and cooling in buildings and infrastructures, but also for industrial processes and agriculture. New opportunities are arising with the extraction of sustainable geothermal lithium made in Europe. With so many different applications, vast untapped potential and the high growth rates of the last years, geothermal energy is bound to become the bedrock of energy transition. 2020 to 2030 will be the “Geothermal Decade”. Suitable European and national policy frameworks can and should encourage this trend if European countries are serious about becoming zero-carbon by 2050.”

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Notes to editors
Access the key findings of the European Geothermal Market Report 2019
The full version of the European Geothermal Market Report 2019 is available to members only.
EGEC is organising a webinar on 17 June at 11:00 am (CEST) to discuss the key findings of the market report. The webinar is free and you can register here.

Covering all segments of the sector – from electricity and geothermal heat pumps to district heating and cooling – the Geothermal Market Report provides a comprehensive picture of the state of the sector in Europe, as well as insightful analysis of the market trends, policy framework and technology evolutions that shape the geothermal sector.

ABOUT EGEC – EUROPEAN GEOTHERMAL ENERGY COUNCIL
The European Geothermal Energy Council (EGEC) is a not-for-profit organisation promoting all aspects of the geothermal industry. It was founded in 1998 to facilitate awareness and expansion of geothermal applications in Europe and worldwide by shaping policy, improving investment conditions and steering research.

Over 120 members from 28 countries, including developers, equipment manufacturers, electricity providers, national associations, consultants, research centres, geological surveys, and public authorities gives EGEC the ability to represent the entire geothermal sector.

EGEC is listed in the European Transparency Register No. 11458103335-07
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