

## Solar Thermal grows strongly in Europe – ESTIF publishes latest market statistics

**Munich, 25 May 2009. The European Solar Thermal Industry Federations (ESTIF) publishes today its annual statistics of the solar thermal markets in Europe. The publication is presented at the 4<sup>th</sup> European Solar Thermal Energy Conference (estec2009), which opens its doors today.**

“In 2008, solar thermal heating and cooling solutions gained favour in more and more countries”, says ESTIF Secretary General Uwe Trenkner. “The solar thermal market in the EU and Switzerland grew by over 60% to 3,3 GW<sub>th</sub> of new capacity or 4,76 mil m<sup>2</sup> of collector area”. While the biggest push clearly came from the German market having more than doubled, demand for solar thermal technology increased strongly also in smaller markets, such as Ireland, Poland and Portugal.

Austria continues to lead continental Europe in per-capita numbers: With a total capacity in operation of 273 kW<sub>th</sub> per 1000 inhabitants it trails only world champion Cyprus, which reached 623 kW<sub>th</sub> per 1000 inhabitants at the end of 2008. And with 29 kW<sub>th</sub> per 1000 inhabitants Austria’s newly installed capacity is more than what high-potential countries such as Spain, Italy or France have installed over the past 20 years.

Meanwhile, solar thermal is becoming a solid economic stimulator: The European turnover in solar thermal products surpassed the 3 billion Euro mark in 2008 and the industry now employs more than 40 000 persons on a full-time basis.

“Solar thermal is well-anchored in today’s markets – our solutions help consumers and society to reduce our carbon footprint and dependence on scarce, imported fuels” says Olivier Drücke, President of ESTIF. “This is also the key reason why we believe that our sector will be less affected by the current economic turmoil”.

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