



Project Fact Sheet

Quality Assurance in Solar Heating and Cooling Technology (QAiST)

Please note that a factsheet on your project is available at
http://ec.europa.eu/energy/intelligent/projects/index_en.htm.

You are invited to verify the information and to update where appropriate and necessary.

Main Information

Please, fill out only these columns that need to be updated. Tick all other fields.

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Project's Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ CENER, Spain▪ CSTB, France▪ DEMOKRITOS, Greece▪ AIT, Austria▪ LNEG, Portugal▪ PIMOT, Poland▪ ISE, Germany▪ ISFH, Germany▪ ITC, Spain▪ IZES, Germany▪ PlanEnergi, Denmark▪ SP, Sweden▪ TEÜ, Germany▪ USTUTT-ITW, Germany
Project's website:	www.qaist.eu
Benefits:	The project worked on the development of European Standards, adapted to the new demands on the solar Thermal market at European Global level, ensuring that these are kept up with new technological developments and remain an important mean for quality assurance in Europe. This will benefit directly the European consumers but will potentially enhance the competitiveness of European manufacturers.
Keywords:	Solar thermal; standards; quality; testing; certification
Duration:	06/2009 – 05/2012
Budget:	€ 1.892.002 (EU contribution: 75%)
Contract number:	IEE/08/593/SI2.529236

Summary (max. 1200 characters)

It is very important for the growth and development of the solar thermal sector that the standards and test methods keep track with recent developments and allow maximum flexibility for future innovations.

Standards and pre-Standards are established, but work is still needed in order to keep track with recent technological developments in the direct use of solar thermal energy (i.e. new materials, concentrating devices, etc.) and in combination with other technologies (cooling, heat pumps, etc.).

New Member States also bring new opportunities to market development. In order to make this development really strong and quality oriented it is essential to integrate them in the current practices in these countries.

Furthermore, in order to open the world market for European producers, coordination with activities in the international standardisation is required. Now is the ideal time to break down the barriers given that sufficient experience with the certification process has been gained and with relevant European standards being revised.

Finally, the long term objective of the QAISt project is to prepare the quality assurance framework so that the European solar thermal heating and cooling industry can sustainably contribute to the targets agreed by the Member states (20% of renewable energy by 2020) and become a technological world leader.

Project's results (max. 500 characters per bulletpoint)

Result 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Support the further development of the solar thermal market in Europe, by developing existing standards and extending Solar Keymark certification activities to new products, actors and countries within Europe.
Result 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Improvement of existing European standards for solar thermal products, supporting the revision of EN 12975, on items such as durability and reliability requirements and including new solutions, such as solar thermal systems in association with heat pumps and cooling machines
Result 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Improve quality assurance for manufacturers and consumers on laboratory tests, through inter laboratory comparisons (Round Robin) and development of guidelines and checklists
Result 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Reduced testing costs for solar domestic hot water systems being part of a common "system family", by developing flexible certification methods.
Result 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Promote European quality standards globally and incentivise harmonisation at international level, including the possibility of establishing global certification schemes.

Lessons learnt (max. 500 characters per bulletpoint)

Lesson 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">European quality standards need to constantly evolve and adapt to the developments of the market, methods, science & legislative framework. Standardisation work is essential for quality assurance and to protect the common European market. At the same time, it is important to prevent that standards become a barrier for innovation. This may happen if the standards do not reflect current and even future technological developments in the products or new demands in terms of market solutions.
Lesson 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">To develop appropriate standards it is essential to have an exchange network involve experts from different countries. Such network needs to include both industry and test laboratories. Synergies between industry and test labs are essential for the sector and QAISt facilitated largely the creation of such network that needs to continue in the future.
Lesson 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Quality assurance depends also largely on the quality of testing. QAISt allowed confirming that the quality in European test laboratories is very good, as could be verified by the results of the solar thermal products inter-laboratory testing (round-robin). Such quality provides assurance to consumers, public authorities and also manufacturers. Furthermore, such an exercise helps the experts from the different test-labs to understand better the test procedures described in the standards and also improve their own work methods.

Last updated

Last updated: 26/07/2012

IMPORTANT NOTE:

- Please, attach logo as a separate .jpg-file if you decided to have one for your project.
- **DO NOT** send this file as a .pdf-file. For technical reasons we only accept it as a word-file.
- Please, title the file in the following way: Project acronym-year.month.doc