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PRESS RELEASE

European cooperation in energy research pays off

By cooperating, energy research organisations in Europe are able to accelerate the development of low-carbon technologies. The organisations have joined forces in the [European Energy Research Alliance](http://www.eera-set.eu) (EERA) and align their activities in Joint Programmes of research. This reduces the duplication of research activities across Europe, working towards reaching Europe's ambitious climate and energy goals effectively and efficiently. EERA now involves more than 2,000 researchers from over 150 organisations, representing an investment of over 200 million euro.

Storing the heat of the sun

The first plans of EERA are now turned into results. In one of the projects that will soon start, a thermal energy storage system will be developed. This system will store heat generated by concentrating solar power during the day in tanks containing molten salt, so the heat may be used during the night.

Making grids smarter

In another programme, EERA investigates how electricity grids can be improved to handle the intermittent supply from sources such as wind and solar. Research results from across the alliance have been exchanged and compiled into reports, so participants may benefit from work of others instead of duplicating their efforts.

A growing alliance

EERA recently launched six new Joint Programmes, covering Concentrated Solar Power, Marine Energy, Fuel Cells and Hydrogen, Smart Cities, Energy Storage, and Advanced Materials and Processes for Energy Applications. The newly approved programmes complement the seven existing Joint Programmes. The EERA Joint Programmes now cover all thematic areas defined by the [Strategic Energy Technology Plan \(SET Plan\)](#), the EU's plan to accelerate energy technology development.

"Visions without funds will remain visions forever"

The launch of the six new Joint Programmes took place at the SET Plan Conference in Warsaw on the 28th of November, where Mr Jerzy Buzek, President of the European Parliament, repeated the urgency of energy and climate problems and called for investment in energy research, as "visions without funds will remain visions forever". Conference participants welcomed results achieved by EERA so far, with Mr Raffaele Liberali, Director of the European Commission's Directorate-General Research, stating that "EERA (today) is a success story".



The European Energy Research Alliance

www.eera-set.eu



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1. Further information about the SET-Plan conference is available at <http://setplan2011.pl/>.
2. In the afternoon of the 28 November, Mr Henrik Bindslev (EERA Chairman) presented the recent developments of EERA's activities, while the new Joint Programmes were presented by the Coordinators. For further information please contact Massimo Busuoli – ENEA – massimo.busuoli@enea.it or Holger Ihssen - Helmholtz Association – Holger.Ihssen@helmholtz.de

The EERA Executive Committee is currently composed by 15 of the leading Public Research Organisations dealing with energy in Europe:

- *Austrian Institute of Technology, AIT (AT)*
- *Research Centre REZ, REZ (CZ)*
- *French Alternative Energies and Atomic Energy Commission, CEA (FR)*
- *Centre for Energy, Environment and Technology Research, CIEMAT (ES)*
- *Centre for Renewable Resources, CRES (GR)*
- *Energy research Centre of the Netherlands, ECN (NL)*
- *Italian National Agency for New Technologies, Energy and Sustainable Economic Development, ENEA (IT)*
- *Helmholtz Association, HGF (DE)*
- *Institute of Power Engineering, IEN (PL)*
- *National Laboratory for Energy and Geology, LNEG (PT)*
- *Paul Scherrer Institute, PSI (CH)*
- *National Laboratory for Sustainable Energy, Risø-DTU (DK)*
- *Foundation for Scientific and Industrial Research, SINTEF (NO)*
- *UK Energy Research Council, UKERC (UK)*
- *Technical Research Centre of Finland, VTT (FI)*

The EERA Executive Committee includes the European Commission and two European organisations as observers:

- *European University Association (EUA)*
- *Science Europe (former EUROHORCs).*