



EERA News

Figure of the month

Content:

260

is the number of participants at EERA Annual Congress 2012.

EERA: Brief update

Selection of new Executive Committee

JP Implementation

EERA Partners (Executive Committee members) have been appointed for a term ending in spring 2012. After expression of interest closed and selection of partners following a clear and transparent procedure a new Executive Committee was formed in April, 27th.

Joint Programmes reviews

EERA chairperson thanked warmly CRES (GR) for their crucial work as EERA partner and welcomed BERA (BE).

EERA Annual Congress

EERA Annual congress took place on May, 2nd and 3rd in Brussels. It was the occasion of four JP reviews (CCS, Material for nuclear, bioenergy and smart grids) and discussions between stakeholders, EERA and the European Commission on the future of the European Research Area.

The congress was a success and gathered more than 250 participants.

New EERA Chairperson

A new EERA chairperson has been (s)electd in an internal consultation process. Erkki KM Leppävuori (CEO of VTT, Finland) will be the next EERA Chairman.

A way to perform EERA: IRP in WP2013

In the Orientation Paper prepared by the Commission (available on internet) in connection with the FP7 2013 Workprogramme on Energy, it is envisaged to explore a new tool named Integrated Research Programmes (IRPs), which should also be seen as test for Horizon2020. This call is open for all consortia and highlights six renewable energy technologies: wind energy, photovoltaic, concentrated solar power (CSP), smart grids, bioenergy and electrochemical storage. The competition will be not only between different consortia in the 6 domains, but also between the 6 domains.

EERA: contribution to Horizon 2020

EERA and its Executive Committee defined five potential funding schemes, based on previous discussion on future business model. These schemes were sent to European Commission services in order to exchange on their feasibility, alignment with Horizon 2020 objectives and vision.

EERA participation at the EUSEW 2012

The EERA, together with the European Economic and Social Committee has organised a one day event during the EUSEW (European Union Sustainable Energy Week) in Brussels, on the 18th of June. This special day, titled “Energy research meets civil society,” aimed at establishing a framework of discussion between the world of research and actors of the civil society. The discussions, in particular concentrated on issues such as Carbon Capture and Storage, Geothermal energy, Energy Storage and safety aspects of Nuclear energy. Contributions both from the world of research and the civil society lead to an interesting discussion on the above-mentioned topics, partially strengthening the common understanding on the benefits that such technologies may have in a decarbonised society.

Strategic meeting 2012

The Executive Committee met on June, 12th and 13th in Bologna for its annual strategic meeting. This year, discussions focused on the future EERA business model. Especially the ExCo had discussed, what activities are needed to create more European added value and what is needed to strengthen the European competitiveness.

JP Implementation

The Descriptions of Work (DoWs) define the activities in the Joint Programmes. To implement these activities requires funding. This implies that the activities must match the topics in funding programmes (and vice versa). DoWs have been formulated such that for the short term, funding is covered through existing projects.

To the extent that activities in the DoW are not yet covered, funding needs to be secured from national and European programmes. This section describes some successful examples of JPs that have been able to secure funding for their activities.

1. FP7: proposals having passed the first step of evaluation under 2012 call:

- **JP Wind:**

Innovative wind conversion systems (10-20mw) for offshore applications

A consortium consisting of the main EERA Wind partners and some additional partners also from industry has submitted a proposal in stage 2. The overall objectives of the proposal are the high performance innovative design of a beyond-state-of-the-art 10-20MW offshore wind turbine and hardware demonstrators of some of the critical components, including specific innovations, new concepts, new technologies and proof of concepts at the sub system and turbine level.

ESFRI WindScanner proposal

The EERA Wind participants has submitted a proposal for the Preparatory Phase of the establishment of the European WindScanner facility. The proposal has been evaluated positively and the consortium is in negotiation with the Commission about the potential start of the project before the end of the year.

2. COST Proposals

- **AMPEA:**

EERA JP-AMPEA submitted a COST proposal on November, 2011 call. JP-AMPEA passed first step of evaluation and wait for final results.

3. ERANET/ ERANET + : Geothermal energy

The kick-off meeting for the ERA Net on Geothermal Energy was held on the 30th and 31st of May 2012 at the National Museum of Iceland. The Geothermal ERA Net involves authorities from 9 countries (Iceland, The Netherlands, Switzerland, Italy, Germany, France, Hungary, Turkey, Slovakia) to support the development of a standardised European Geothermal Database, encourage joint activities of scientific partners from different countries in research and training, and develop a transnational research agenda in support of the EERA JPGE.

4. ITN energy

The Marie Curie Initial Training Networks (ITN) are EU FP7 funded projects (PEOPLE) offering early-stage researchers the opportunity to improve their research skills, join established research teams and enhance their career prospects.

The “CSP-NET” project (“Concentrated Solar Power – initial training NETwork”) has been submitted by the participants to the EERA Joint Programme on CSP in the occasion of the Marie Curie Initial Training Networks (ITN) call for 2012.

The EERA Joint Programme on CSP aims at acting as "orientation and advice" for the young growing European CSP industry towards the most innovative technologies that will enable them to face the competition at world level maintaining the actual leadership in the sector.

Sixteen Individual Research Projects (IRPs) related to the four JP’s sub-programmes have been proposed for the recruitment of researchers to be trained in the CSP technology.

Joint Programmes review

1. Carbon and Capture and Storage (CCS)

Participants: 40 institutes and universities from 12 countries
Resources: >270 person-year/year
Coordinator: Andreas Ehinger (IFP EN)

Sub-programmes:

1. Capture
2. Storage

EERA JP-CCS was reviewed after more than one year of running (officially launched in November 2010). The objective of this first year of running was various:

- Initiate joint R&D activities,
- Integrate the CCS-JP into European community,
- Build programme community.

The JPC, Andreas Ehinger, is satisfied by the work realised so far by the joint programmes and encourage its participants to launch R&D activities for coming years.

The review team, composed by Olaf Bolland (NTNU), Niels Peter Christensen (Vattenfall) and Kris Piessens (Geological Survey of Belgium) congratulates JP-CCS for its impressive work since its launch. The review team recommends JP-CCS to work on a scientific research agenda in order to give strength to JP-CCS.

More details are on the EERA web site: <http://www.eera-set.eu>

For further information please contact Candice Boudet (candice.boudet@cea.fr)

2. Materials for Nuclear

Participants: 16 institutes and universities from 12 countries
Resources: 130 person-year/year
Coordinator: Concetta Fazio (KIT)

Sub-programmes:

1. Support to ESNII
2. Oxide Dispersion Strengthened (ODS) Steel
3. Refractory/composites
4. Modelling

The starting phase of the JP was mainly dedicated to set up the way and the rules on how to work together in the future. Mr. Al Mazouzi (EDF, F), Mrs. Keim (Areva, D) and Mr. H. Hanninen (Aalto-U, Fi) discussed the progress of the JP.

The reviewers recognise the excellent quality and the quantity of the work and especially recognised that all was accomplished on a voluntary basis .

The reviewers concluded that establishing a collaborative programme between many organisations in Europe is a real challenge especially in nuclear field as each nation has his own R&D and deployment agenda and also strict and distinct intellectual property right policies. The effort that has been made so far to build up this consortium is tremendous and needs to be highly recognised and supported by the decision makers.. Support from both national and European R&D funders is necessary to strengthen the competitiveness of this strategic industry.

This JPNM is a necessary step to harmonise the on going and the forth coming R&D related to the material issues for the next generation IV reactors.

More details to the specific areas are on the EERA web site under <http://www.eera-set.eu>

For further information please contact Holger Ihssen (Holger.Ihssen@Helmholtz.de)

3. Bioenergy

Participants:	24 institutes from 13 countries
Resources:	100 person-years/year committed
Coordinator:	Kai Sipilä (VTT)

Sub-programmes:

1. Thermo-chemical processing
2. Sugar platform
3. Algae-based biofuels
4. Cross-cutting topics

The EERA Joint Programme on Bioenergy had been officially launched at the SET-Plan conference in November 2010 in Brussels and the Description of Work of the Joint Programme has been finalized in late October 2010.

The 2012 review of the JP Bioenergy occurs thus after a duration of 1,5 years and it will therefore mainly focus on the relevance of strategy, organization, commitments and relations to stakeholders.

The review team was composed of representatives from academia and industry and consisted of Mr Josef Spitzer (Associate Professor at Graz Technical University), Mr Markku Karlsson (UPM-Kymmene) and Mr Jørgen Kjems (consultant, former director of Risø). In the review report, it was recognized how the JP had successfully managed to establish the cooperation between an impressive set of research players. One of the main recommendations given by the review team was that dedicated funding is required to reach the next stage of independent projects. Base funding available from national sources is limited to co-finance of external projects and thus not sufficient.

The Joint Programme Coordinator Kai Sipilä welcomed the review results and promised to take the considerations of the reviewers into account.

More details to the specific areas are on the EERA web site under <http://www.eera-set.eu>

For further information please contact Ingo Bunzeck (bunzeck@ecn.nl)

4. Smart Grids

Participants: 19 institutes from 16 countries
Resources: 99 person-years/year committed
Coordinator: Luciano Martini (RSE)

Sub-programmes:

1. Network Operation
2. Energy management
3. Control system interoperability
4. Electrical storage technologies
5. Transmission networks

EERA JP-Smart Grids was reviewed for the second time, after his first evaluation during last year's EERA Annual Congress.

The objective of the Joint Programme is to promote and strengthen Coordination at European level of medium- to long-term R&D activity in the field of Smart Grids. A fifth Sub Programme, on Transmission Network was incorporated into the JP in February 2012 and the first JP (and EERA) Deliverable (Electrical Energy Storage Technology Review) was submitted to the EERA ExCo, after the review of external experts and then disseminated.

The JPC Luciano Martini declared to be happy about the results of the second review of his Joint Programme and thanked the JP reviewers, namely Mr Osamu Onodera from NEDO (Japan), Prof. Antonio Gomes Martins from the University of Coimbra (Portugal) and Prof Ronnie Belmans, from the Catholic University of Leuven (Belgium), for the very valuable comments and suggestions for the future R&D activity.

More details are on the EERA website: <http://www.eera-set.eu/>

For further information please contact Massimo Busuoli (massimo.busuoli@enea.it) and Marco Carulli (marco.carulli@enea.it).