GEOELEC

NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2013

Develop Geothermal Electricity in Europe to have a renewable energy mix

Main results of the GEOELEC Project

The GEOELEC project, supported by the Intelligent Energy Europe initiative of the European Commission, kicked off in June 2011. Gathering partners from 8 European countries, the objective of GEOELEC project is to convince decision-makers about the potential of geothermal electricity in Europe, to stimulate banks and investors to finance geothermal power installations and finally to attract key potential investors such as oil & gas companies, and electrical utilities to invest in the geothermal power.

After 2 years, Geoelec project is able to present key results: towards a European risk insurance geothermal fund, the first Geographical Information System showing geothermal electricity potential in Europe in 2020 and 2050, and reports on public acceptance and environmental impact.

All conclusions will be presented in an action plan aiming to remove non-technical barriers, to draw the attention of policy makers and industry to geothermal electricity, giving geothermal power the high profile it has in other parts of the world, and to persuade venture capitalists and other companies to seek the obvious benefits from investing in the technology.

This project aims also at effectively highlight the potential contribution of geothermal electricity in all EU-27 countries in the short and medium term. A potential study for each EU27 Member States as well as Turkey, Iceland, Switzerland and Norway will be published in September.

Finally, special attention is given to training new professionals in the sector, and on enhancing the prospects for future job creation. The last course will be organised in Pisa from 8 to 11 of October.

Did you know?

Until now, only a few combined heat and power geothermal plants are in operation, but this situation is changing rapidly. As a matter of fact, EGS (CHP) provides more opportunities for cogenration systems. CHP geothermal plants are operating in Iceland (flash system) and in Austria, and Germany with medium/low temperature power plants driving binary ORC turbines.

CHP helps geothermal to become more attractive by recovering waste heat for heating and cooling purposes.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Co-funded by the Intelligent Energy Europe Programme of the European Union

Third training course on geothermal electricity, Pisa, October 2013 Registration starts NOW!

GEOELEC is organising a training course in Pisa, Italy from 8th to 11th of October 2013. The course aims to providing a geothermal background to public authorities and the financial sector and a specialization for geothermal professionals and those working in the oil/gas/mining sectors. This is the third training course on geothermal electricity in a series of 3.

The maximum number of participants is 45. Training courses are free of charge (including coffee breaks). Lunch, Dinner, Travel and Accommodation costs are not covered.
Recommendation: A basic knowledge of geothermal is required !

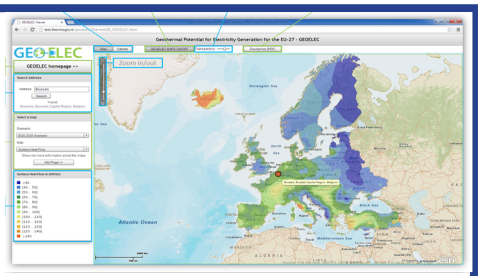
Please complete the reply form and e-mail us a short CV by 27 of September.

GEOELEC already organised two training courses in Strasbourg (November 2012) and in Potsdam (April 2013). You will find all presentations online on the courses page of the GEOELEC website.

For additional information about the training course, see the draft agenda.

Geographical information system shows geothermal electricity potential in Europe in 2020 and 2050

The GEOELEC Geographical Information System is now available online.



This unique system presents for the first time ever a geothermal resource assessment from 1km to 5km depth. Based on currently available information, it shows the estimated potential for geothermal electricity production in 2020 and 2050 in each of the EU-28 Member States, plus Norway, Iceland, Switzerland, and Turkey.

Report on Risk insurance

The GEOELEC project sets out a proposal for the establishment of a Geothermal Risk Insurance Fund at EU level

Geothermal energy is a renewable energy with many advantages; it is base load, local, flexible and environmentally friendly. Investors should be encouraged to take part in its promising development.

Despite this, its penetration into the energy market remains difficult. Although profits can easily be made, investors consider the geothermal resource as risky and are therefore reluctant to commit to projects.

The geological risk is a common issue all over Europe, the GEOELEC project calls for the establishment of a Geothermal Risk Insurance Fund at the EU level and, to this end, publishes today a report outlining such a scheme.

The report can be found here.
Read the press release here.

Report on public acceptance of geothermal electricity production and Environmental study on geothermal power published

Two important documents for improving the communication of geothermal project development have recently been published by Geoelec project.

The first concerns the analysis of the environment impact of a geothermal plant. The main conclusions are the following.

Geothermal power plants have:

- A small footprint that leaves little permanent scarring.
- Normal construction site disturbance and waste.
- Buildings, cooling towers and pipelines which create minimal visual impact.
- Reinjection of geothermal fluid in their aquifer of origin which does not contaminate groundwater.
- Hydraulic stimulation which uses 99% water, chemicals and no proppants, following environment rules.
- Induced micro-seismicity which can occur due to re-injection but which is monitored and controlled.

The second concerns public acceptance. Social acceptance is an important factor in site selection due to:

- environmental issues,
- missing involvement issues,
- financial issues (in case of e.g. municipal grants),
- NIMBY (Not In My Back Yard) acceptance issues,
- local energy production.

Presentation of Geoelec conclusions during national promotional workshops

Geoelec will organise a series of 7 promotional workshops in France, Germany, Spain, The Netherlands, Greece, Hungary and Italy in October-November 2013.

They will present project results concerning the three main issues:

- Financing geothermal power projects
- Regulatory, social and environmental conditions
- Education and employment

Moreover, the potential of geothermal electricity production in these countries for 2020, 2030 and 2050 will be presented.

Dates will be announced soon. Visit the Geoelec website to be informed in time.

Register now!

TRAINING COURSE
ON GEOTHERMAL ELECTRICITY

GEOELEC

8-11 October 2013

Pisa, Italy

More information on
www.geoelec.eu