IEA GEOTHERMAL

IEA Geothermal
Implementing Agreement

European Commission
Sponsor Report
2014

1.1 Background

In 2014 the first grants funded by Horizon2020, the current EU framework programme for research and innovation, were published as part of the 2014-15 Work Programme. Funding opportunities for geothermal projects are available throughout the Work Programme and different funding mechanisms can be used, but the most significant calls for the geothermal sector are the ones included in the "Secure, Clean and Efficient Energy" challenge, in particular in the focus area called "Low Carbon Technologies". This area focuses on developing and bringing to market affordable, cost-effective and resource-efficient technology solutions to decarbonise the energy system in a sustainable way, to secure energy supply, and to complete the energy internal market (see Horizon2020 website).

The topics proposed in the work programme cover the whole range of technology development, from very low TRL (Technology Readiness Level) of 1 to market uptake at TRL 9. In 2014, two calls were published particularly related to geothermal energy. The first is on the development of new drilling technologies and concepts for deep geothermal energy, to bring technology from TRL 3-4 to 4-5. The second is on the development of improved vertical borehole drilling technologies to enhance safety and reduce costs of shallow geothermal energy, to bring technology from TRL 5-6 to 6-7. All of the projects funded under both calls started in 2015.

1.2 Major Highlights and achievements for 2014

In 2014, the implementation of project IMAGE, Integrated Methods for Advanced Geothermal Exploration (see 2013 Annual Report), continued and the initial planned field activities in Italy and in Iceland were successfully carried out. The implementation of the other FP7-funded project (from the 7th Framework Programme, the 2007-2013 programme for research and innovation), Geothermal ERA NET, continued in 2014. The ERA NET participants focused more on the preparation of future joint activities to be initiated in 2015.

The European Technology Platform for Renewable Heating and Cooling (RHC-ETP) continued to be operational in 2014. This platform brings together all main renewable heating sources and stakeholders (biomass, solar thermal and geothermal) and deals with strategic issues for growth, competitiveness and sustainability, including research and innovation. In 2014, a Geothermal Technology Roadmap was published, and so was a Common Implementation Roadmap for Renewable Heating and Cooling Technologies. The road maps can be downloaded from the RHC-ETP website. The Geothermal Technology Roadmap proposes an Implementation Plan for 2013–2020 for both shallow and deep geothermal energy, including an EGS flagship program, and an analysis of the necessary budget.

1.3 Websites

Horizon2020:
http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020/en/h2020-section/secure-clean-and-efficient-energy

RHC-ETP: http://www.rhc-platform.org/

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To Find Out More

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IEA Geothermal

Supporting and Advancing Worldwide Sustainable Geothermal Energy Use Through International Cooperation

www.iea-gia.org

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