

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE



Stefan Nowak
Chairman

I am pleased to present the annual report of the IEA Photovoltaic Power Systems Programme covering the year 2007. It was another remarkable year for photovoltaic technology. Once again, a strong market growth could be observed, accompanied by important investments in research and development, in new products, as well as in new industrial production facilities of increasing size. Analysing this rapid development and contributing to a further sustainable growth of photovoltaic technology is both exciting and challenging. As a leading international network of expertise, IEA PVPS has the mission and privilege to co-operate on a global level in this rapidly expanding technology area. Providing objective and neutral high-quality information about relevant developments in the photovoltaic sector remained our highest priority. Due to the increasing recognition of photovoltaics as an important future energy technology, the interest in the work performed within IEA PVPS is continuously expanding.

2007 has indeed also been a special year for IEA PVPS: The third term of our collaborative programme was concluded at the end of the year and – due to a clear and pronounced need for further collaborative work – an extension had to be foreseen. Along the IEA procedures, an End-of-Term report was prepared together with a strategy for the next term. Our findings were presented to the Renewable Energy Working Party (REWP) and the Committee for Energy Research and Technology (CERT). Our collaborative programme was very well received and found to be a model of IEA collaboration, in terms of quality of the work, global coverage, outreach, impact and communication efforts. Both committees congratulated PVPS for its achievements and the extension for another 5-year term was unanimously approved.

2007 was also a year of outreach activities for PVPS. Based on the G8 Gleneagles Plan of Action, the IEA has placed additional emphasis on the technology networks and their outreach activities through the NEET initiative (Networks of Expertise in Energy Technology) in which PVPS participates. PVPS participated actively in the NEET workshops in South Africa and China during the year. One of our Executive Committee meetings was held in Greece in order to foster potential participation of Greece in the IEA PVPS programme. Membership in IEA PVPS was re-established by Turkey and Malaysia is on its way to become a regular member of the programme. New Zealand, Singapore and Thailand have also shown interest in IEA PVPS.

On the Task level, the PVPS Task 2 on Performance, Reliability and Analysis of Photovoltaic Systems was successfully concluded at the end of the year. My thanks for a remarkable effort and relevant results go to Germany as the leading country of this Task, the Operating Agent Ulrike Jahn for her outstanding commitment and dedication to the leadership of this Task as well as to the Task expert group who have been working together for many years. There was a clear recommendation from the Executive Committee, that the activities of Task 2 concerning quality assurance should form the topic of a new Task to be established in the coming year. The new Task 12 on "Environmental Aspects of Photovoltaics" started during the year with the support by the European Photovoltaic Industry Association (EPIA) and the United States as Operating Agents.

The overall communication efforts were continued through systematic distribution of PVPS products (flyer, newsletter, annual report and topical reports) at conferences, workshops and by means of direct mailings. Communication was further supported by the PVPS website www.iea-pvps.org which was simplified and reorganised. Moreover, a booth at the industry exhibition of the 22nd European Photovoltaic Solar Energy Conference in Milan, again attracted a large number of visitors and provided an excellent forum for dissemination purposes.

2007 was another productive year for PVPS with many new results from the various ongoing projects. The detailed results are given in the Task reports of this annual report and all publications can be found at the PVPS website. I would like to congratulate all Tasks on their progress and achievements. The current status of photovoltaics in the PVPS member countries is described within the country section of this annual report.

A number of Executive Committee members have left us during the year, heading for new responsibilities or horizons. I would like to thank them for their strong support and valuable contributions. With this, I take the opportunity to thank all Executive Committee members, Operating Agents and Task Experts, who by their dedicated efforts, contribute to the collaborative work and success of PVPS.