



PRESS RELEASE

Kick off meeting of the PV-NET project “Promotion of PV energy through net metering optimization”

The Photovoltaic Technology Group and the Research Centre for Sustainable Energy of the University of Cyprus announce the kick off of the project entitled «Promotion of PV energy through net metering optimization (PV-NET)», financed by the European Regional Development Fund through the cross-border programme MED.

The project has a total budget of 1,279,526 euro and coordinated by the University of Cyprus. For the successful implementation of the PV-NET project a very strong partnership is involved. The partners are from Cyprus (University of Cyprus, Cyprus Energy Agency), Greece (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki), Slovenia (University of Maribor), Spain (Andalusian Energy Institute - IAT), France (Agency for Energy and Environment in Rhone-Alpes - RAEE) and Portugal (Regional Agency for Energy and Environment in the Algarve-AREAL). The project is also supported by the Electricity Authority of Cyprus and the Cyprus Energy Regulatory Authority and the relevant power and energy authorities in the other participating countries. The kick off meeting will be held on the 23-24 April 2013 at the Grand Resort in Limassol, Cyprus.

The project aims at developing a better energy policy for the promotion of RES in the Mediterranean area, targeting the best and most cost-efficient use of PV technology. The project focuses on optimizing smart energy management systems in order to create alternative, economical, sustainable measures in harmonizing and reassessing the existing Support Schemes including governmental subsidies or grants. Smart net metering can be a very good energy policy for the promotion of renewable electricity and offers the possibility of measuring and managing the electrical energy consumed in buildings by subtracting the energy produced by the installed PV system.

Such a solution can strengthen the presence of the producers-consumers in the electrical network, which according to their energy profile may even bring at zero the cost of their total electricity consumption. The most important point in this approach is to promote the most cost effective uptake of the PV technology as net metering does not require any subsidies / grants, without compromising the interests of consumers and electricity utility companies, who can sell the energy produced at a reasonable price. Already energy authorities of the participating countries have shown interest in the exploitation of the project results and possible adoption of the results of the project.



University of Cyprus
PV Technology



Through the implementation of the project PV-NET, the net metering schemes will be optimized in each med area involved, taking into account local conditions and strategies for energy pricing. Furthermore, it requires persuading the consumers on sustainability and the economic benefit resulting from the adoption of PV Net metering, which nowadays is very important due to the high cost of electricity.

Pilot PV net metering systems will be installed in Cyprus, Slovenia and Portugal on different types of buildings (residential, commercial, industrial, etc.). The aim is to study the energy policy of each region in order to develop the most optimum PV net metering model and to analyze the data generated by the pilot plants. Data on consumption and tariffs will be selected and therefore will be studied and compared. The data series that will be collected will be used to optimize the model, which will be applicable in each region. Thus, the pilots will be used to demonstrate and prove the benefits of PV net metering by validating different models.

It is clear that the PV net metering scheme is one of the most ideal candidates for the promotion of renewable electricity in the liberalised electricity markets in the Med area.

For more information please contact the project coordinator Dr George E. Georgiou, Head of PV Technology, Electrical Engineering Department of the University of Cyprus, Tel. +357 22892272, email: geg@ucy.ac.cy



REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS EUROPEAN UNION

The project is co-financed through the European Regional Development Fund