



SOLAR HEATING & COOLING PROGRAMME  
INTERNATIONAL ENERGY AGENCY

# Efficient solar district heating systems

## SHC Task 68

### French National Day

Sophia Antipolis, 13.06.2023

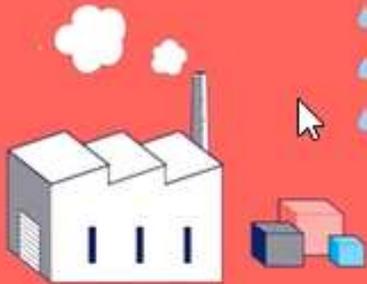
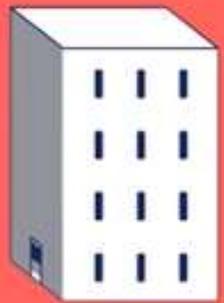
**Task Manager Viktor Unterberger**

Task Duration: 01.04.2022 – 31.03.2025

# #HeatIsHalf



**50%**



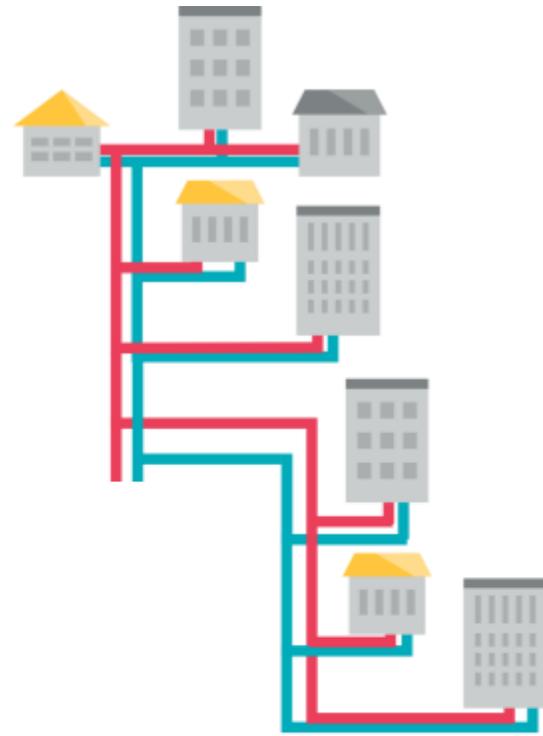
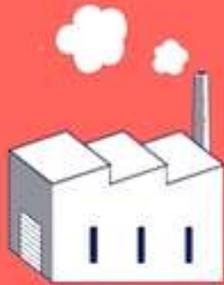
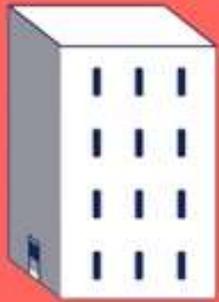
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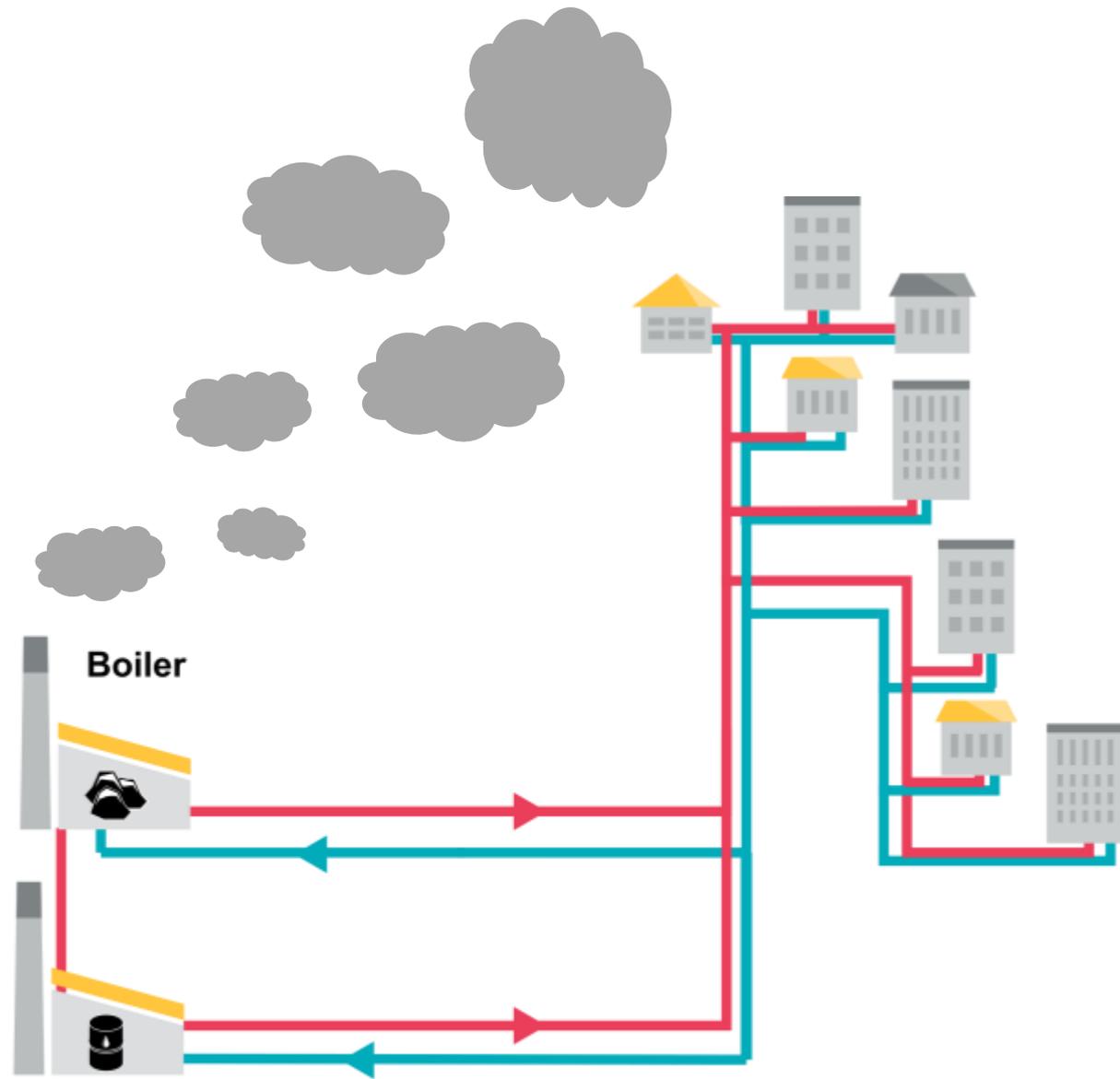
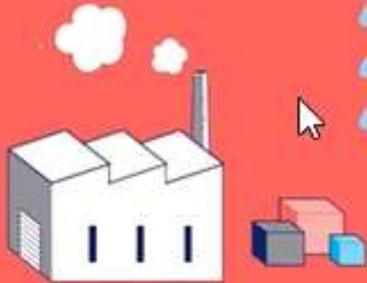
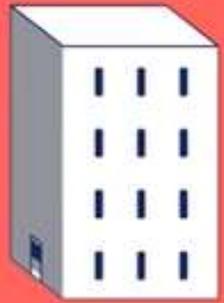
**30%**



**50%**



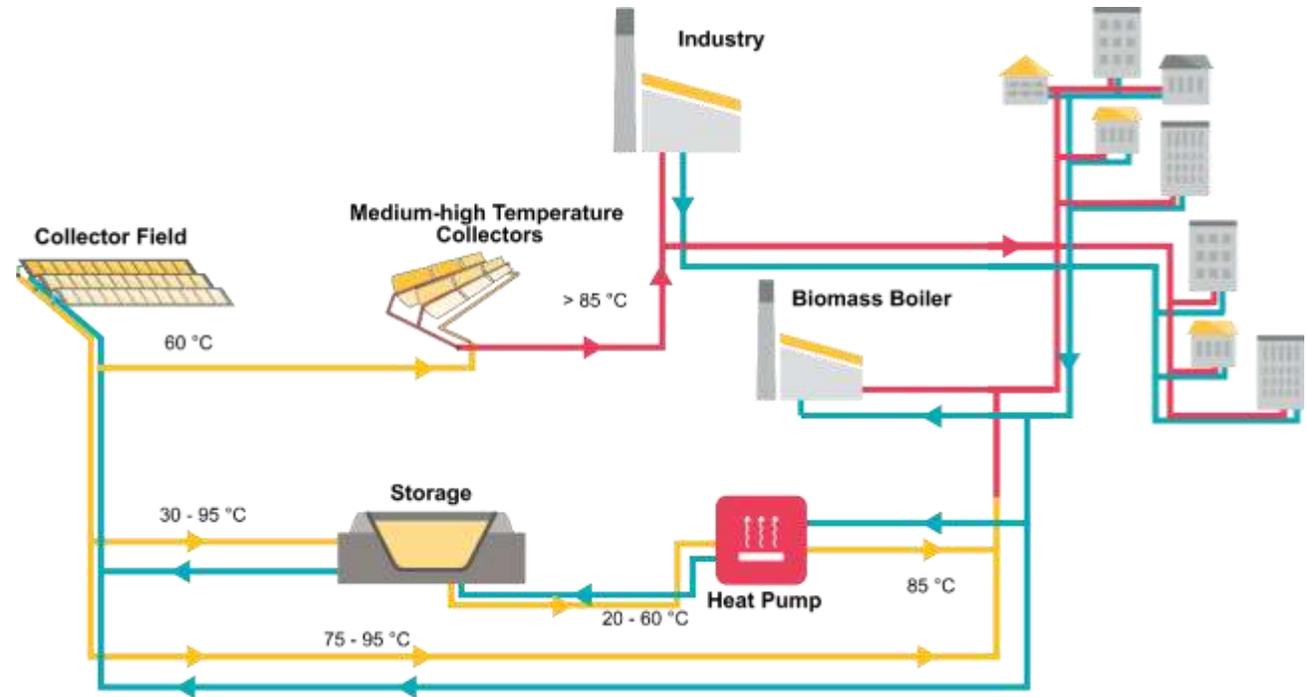
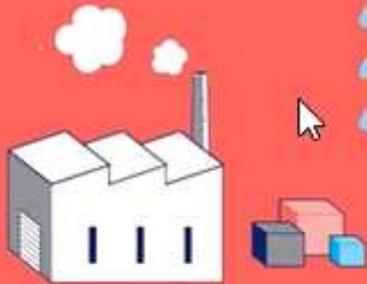
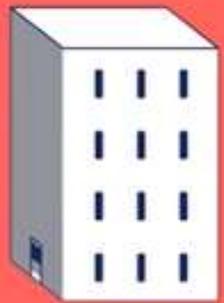
**50%**



**< 10% Renewables**

<https://www.iea.org/reports/district-heating>

50%



## Solar District Heating Systems

# Goals of the IEA SHC Task 68



- Provide the heat most **efficiently** at the desired temperature level



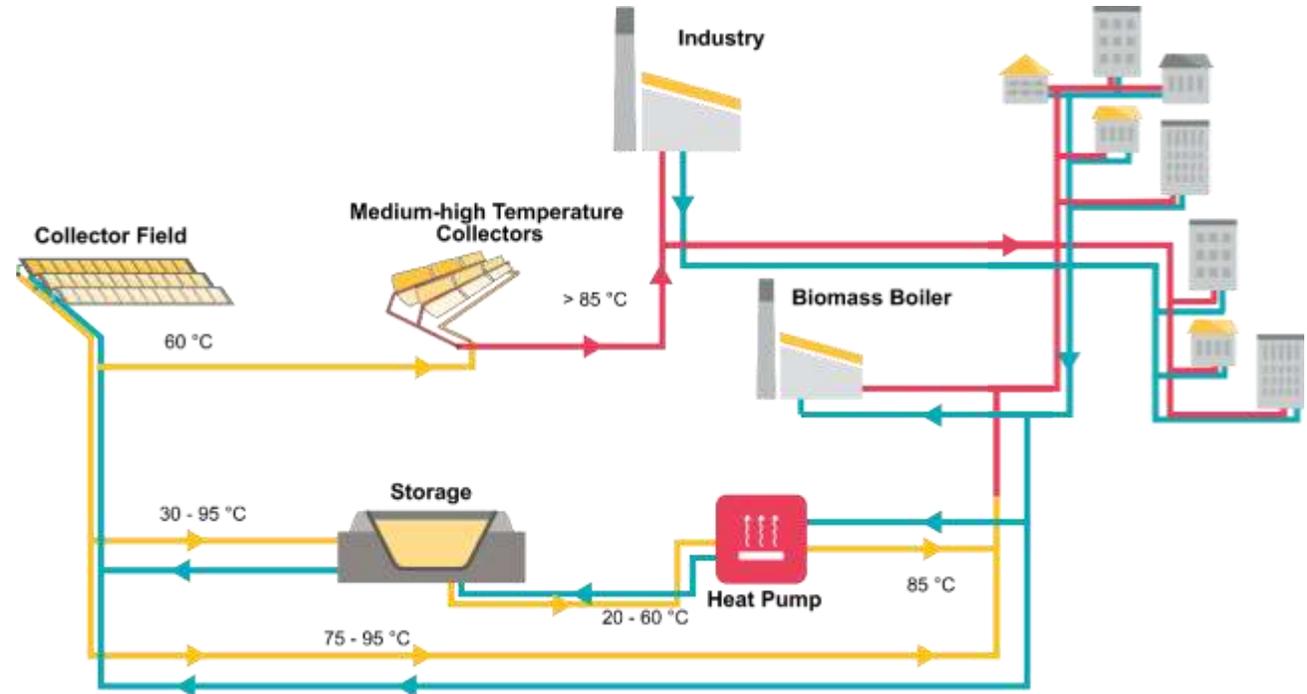
- Increase digitalization level for a more **efficient** data preparation and utilization



- Make SDH systems more **cost-efficient** and explore new business models



- Raise awareness for solar technologies and **efficiently** disseminate the results



✓ April 2022 – March 2025

✓ 10 Participating countries

(Austria, China, Denmark, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, UK)

✓ Task Manager: Viktor UNTERBERGER



# Task Structure



## Subtask A: Concepts

- Requirements | Planning | Configuration | Modelling



## Subtask B: Data preparation & utilization

- Gathering/Storing data | Auto. Monitoring/Evaluation | Control



## Subtask C: Business models

- Financing & Investment schemes | Risks & Barriers | Cost red.



## Subtask D: Use Cases and Dissemination

- Demos | Awareness | Market overview | Best practice

Technologies / Components

Systems

- Medium to high temperature SDH – directly by solar
- Medium to high temperature SDH – indirectly by solar  
(e.g. solar + heat pump / biomass / waste heat ...)

# Subtask A – Concepts

## Subtask leader:

Magdalena Berberich, Solites, (Germany)



## Planned activities of Subtask A:



**A1: Comparison of different collector technologies for providing medium-high temperature heat with respect to technical and economic characteristics.**



**A2: Collection of requirements and concepts** necessary to efficiently plan, design and scaling-up SDH systems, especially considering medium-high temperature heat.



**A3: Analysis of existing simulation tools for the simulation of efficient SDH systems**, especially considering medium-high temperature heat.



**A4: Define performance and efficiency measures** for SDH systems on component and system level



# Current work and preliminary results – Comparison of collector technologies

Many collector solutions available:

- Heliac
- TVP
- Parabolic trough
- Flat plate
- ...

➔ Goal is to provide fact sheets to make them comparable

IEA SHC Task 68 – Subtask A Concepts – Template A1 5

### 1 EXAMPLE FOR FACT SHEET

#### Solarlite GmbH / Azteq

**Manufacturer:** Solarlite / Azteq  
**Location:** Bentwisch, GE; Genk, BE  
**Year of foundation:** 2014 / 2019  
**Website:** [www.solarlite.de](http://www.solarlite.de), [www.azteq.be](http://www.azteq.be)  
**Production location and capacity:** n.a.

#### Certification

None

#### Applications

District heating and solar process heating, steam generation and power production

- Max. operation temperature: 400 °C
- Max. operation pressure: 40 bar

#### Materials

glass (outer tube + mirror), metal (inner tube + Pylon body), glass mirror with silver coating

#### Heat transfer fluid

Water/ Steam, Thermal oil/ Silicon Oil

#### Precaution in case of frost

Silicone oil with freezing point of -45 °C is usually chosen for frost risk areas - no need for heat tracing and no risk of frost

#### Precaution in case of stagnation

Flow control in individual loops to avoid dry running and hydraulic safety-defocus during black out scenario

#### Conflict potential

No risk of glare - can also be used close to

#### Parabolic trough

The HYTS770 of Manufacturer Azteq ist a single-axis tracking parabolic trough collector. Solarlite is also offering the parabolic trough types SL2300 and SL4600.



Image: HYTS770

Geometrical features of HYTS770	
Module width	5.77 m
Module length	12.5 m
Gross area	72.1 m <sup>2</sup>
Aperture area	72.1 m <sup>2</sup>
Glass tube diameter	130 mm
Absorber diameter	70 mm
Focal line	1.71 m
Collector height	k.A.
Concentration factor	82.5

Main features of HYTS770	
Optical efficiency $\eta_0$	0.75
Heat loss coefficient $U_L$	-0.02915 W/(m <sup>2</sup> K)

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# Subtask B – Data preparation & utilization

## Subtask leader

Sabine Putz, SOLID, (Austria)



## Planned activities



**B1: Describe and propose efficient solutions to gather, store and distribute data** from heterogenous devices on a single- but also multi-plant level.



**B2: Develop guidelines for the validation** of data from SDH systems.



**B3: Collect, describe, develop and apply techniques for analysis,** monitoring and fault detection of data.



**B4: Comparison of state-of-the-art available control strategies** on sub- (=component level) and superordinate level (=system level).

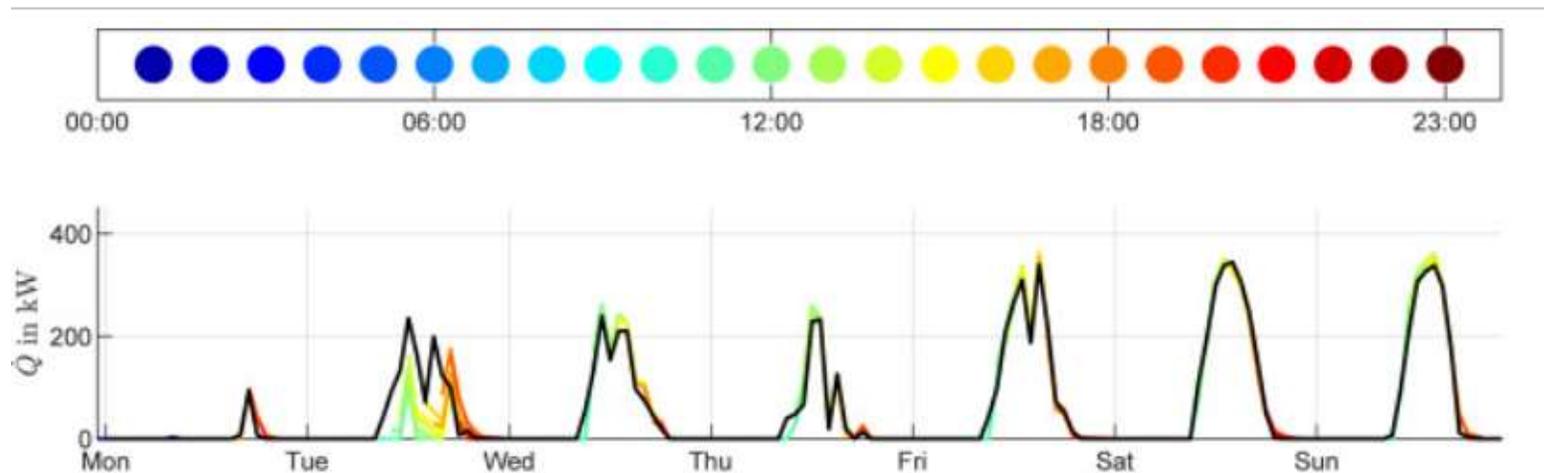


**B5: Develop and define requirements and concepts for open data approaches**



# Current work and preliminary results – Control strategies

... for **solar thermal systems** e.g. considering self-learning forecasting methods (→ [LINK](#))



... but also energy management systems (EMS) for **whole district heating systems** (→ [LINK](#))

35% reduction in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions  
7% fuel cost reduction  
during 1 month (April 2021)



# Current work and preliminary results – Control strategies and Open Data

- **Collection of open data sources / platforms**  
→ planned joint publication through task 68 community

- Specific measurement data of real plants available as open-data sets, by data in Brief article and made accessible for download

<b>Measurement Data:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">Dronninglund</a> (solar-thermal + Pit-Storage)</li><li>• <a href="#">FHW plant</a> (solar-thermal)</li></ul>	<b>GIS-Irradiation Data:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">Global Solar Atlas</a> (worldwide)</li><li>• <a href="#">PV-Geo</a> (worldwide)</li><li>• <a href="#">Solar-GIS</a> (worldwide)</li><li>• <a href="#">Enmi.nl</a> (NED)</li><li>• <a href="#">Solarpotentialkataster (Wien, Graz, Upper Austria)</a></li></ul>
<b>Plant Statistics:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">stho-plants.info</a> (worldwide)</li><li>• <a href="#">solar-district-heating.eu</a> (EU)</li><li>• <a href="#">solvarmedata.dk</a> (DEN)</li><li>• <a href="#">solarheatdata.eu</a> (DEN, under reconstruction)</li><li>• <a href="#">solare-waermeretze.de</a> (GER)</li></ul>	<b>Others:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">Petrad (Heat Demand)</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Forecast Solar Irradiation</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Solar Keymark Database</a></li><li>• <a href="#">ScenoCalc</a></li></ul>
<b>Provider:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">RTC Database</a> (worldwide)</li><li>• <a href="#">MCS Database</a> (UK)</li></ul>	<b>Missing:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• up-to-date plant statistics</li><li>• cost data</li></ul>

Contents lists available at [ScienceDirect](#)

**Data in Brief**

Journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/dib](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/dib)

**ELSEVIER**

**Data Article**

**One year of high-precision operational data including measurement uncertainties from a large-scale solar thermal collector array with flat plate collectors, located in Graz, Austria**

Daniel Tschopp<sup>a,1,\*</sup>, Philip Ohnewein<sup>a,1</sup>, Roman Stelzer<sup>b</sup>, Lukas Feierl<sup>c</sup>, Marnoch Hamilton-Jones<sup>a,d</sup>, Maria Moser<sup>c</sup>, Christian Holter<sup>c,e</sup>

<sup>a</sup> AEE – Institute for Sustainable Technologies (AEE INTEC), Feldgasse 19, 8200 Gleisdorf, Austria

**zenodo**

March 16, 2023

One year of high-precision operational data including measurement uncertainties from a large-scale solar thermal collector array with flat plate collectors, located in Graz, Austria

Highlights:

- High-precision measurement data acquired within a scientific research project, using high-quality measurement equipment and implementing extensive data quality assurance measures.
- The dataset includes data from one full operational year in a 7-minute sampling rate, covering all seasons.
- Measured data of sensors include global, beam and diffuse irradiance for solar and collector plane, heat transfer fluid properties were determined in a dedicated laboratory test.
- In addition to the measured data elements, calculated data elements, such as thermal power, solar-to-heat flow, fluid properties, solar incidence angle and shadowing models are provided to facilitate further analysis.
- Descriptions of data channels are provided based on data sheet specifications and IEC 61851-4 (Appendix).
- The dataset refers to a specific application which is representative of typical large-scale solar thermal plant designs (flat plate collectors, common hydraulic layout).
- Additional information is provided in a "Data in Brief" journal article: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.dib.2023.108224>

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# Subtask C – Business models

## Subtask leader

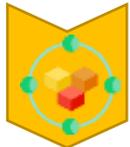
Luuk Beurskens, TNO, (the Netherlands)



## Planned activities



**C1:** Collect and provide an **overview of financing and investment schemes** worldwide for SDH systems.



**C2:** **Evaluate, discuss and propose possible new business models** for efficient SDH systems, with a special focus on medium-high temperature or/and digitalization aspects.



**C3:** Define a standard, **certain criteria or a seal of approval for planners/designers** of SDH systems



**C4:** Collect, list and compare measures and **possibilities to reduce the costs** of SDH systems.



# Current work and preliminary results – overview of financing and investment schemes

## 1. Types of support schemes for renewables (describing the schemes: investment subsidy, production subsidy, loans, tenders, ...)

for different  
countries

- Performance of funding scheme (e.g. realized solar thermal installation, annual budget, ...)
- History: situation before funding scheme came into force
- Policy design: features of the funding scheme
- Strengths and weaknesses: experiences with funding scheme from market parties and policy makers
- Suggested improvements, specifically for large-scale solar thermal energy

## 2. Types of business models for solar thermal (describing the business models)

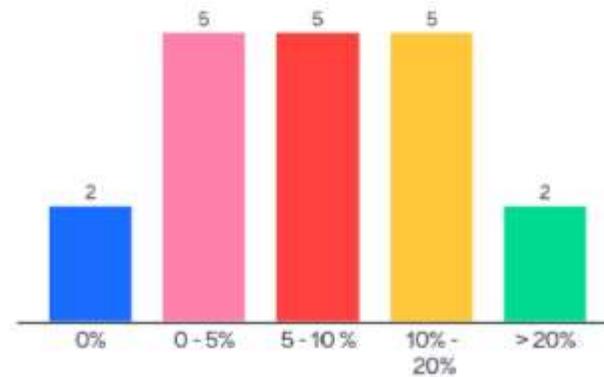
for different  
countries

- Ownership Business Models (public-private partnership, multiparty, lease/hire)
- Service Business Models (user cooperative, Energy Performance Contracting)



# Current work and preliminary results – possibilities to reduce the costs

What overall investment-cost reduction is feasible up to 2030?



Which components are most likely to result in a cost reduction ?

Financing	Planing and engineering design of plants and BoP	The panels themselves
Everything outside the collector	Balance of plant	Solar collertors
BoO	BoP	Collector, Hydraulics

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# Subtask D – Use Cases and Dissemination



## Subtask leader

Joakim Byström, Bengt Söderbergh, Absolicon, (Sweden)

## Planned activities



**D1: Collect and provide an overview of efficient SDH installations** as well as their description and structure, especially providing medium-high temperatures.



**D2: Provide valuable future scenarios** as well as qualitative and quantitative targets for the solar sector and policy makers regarding SDH systems



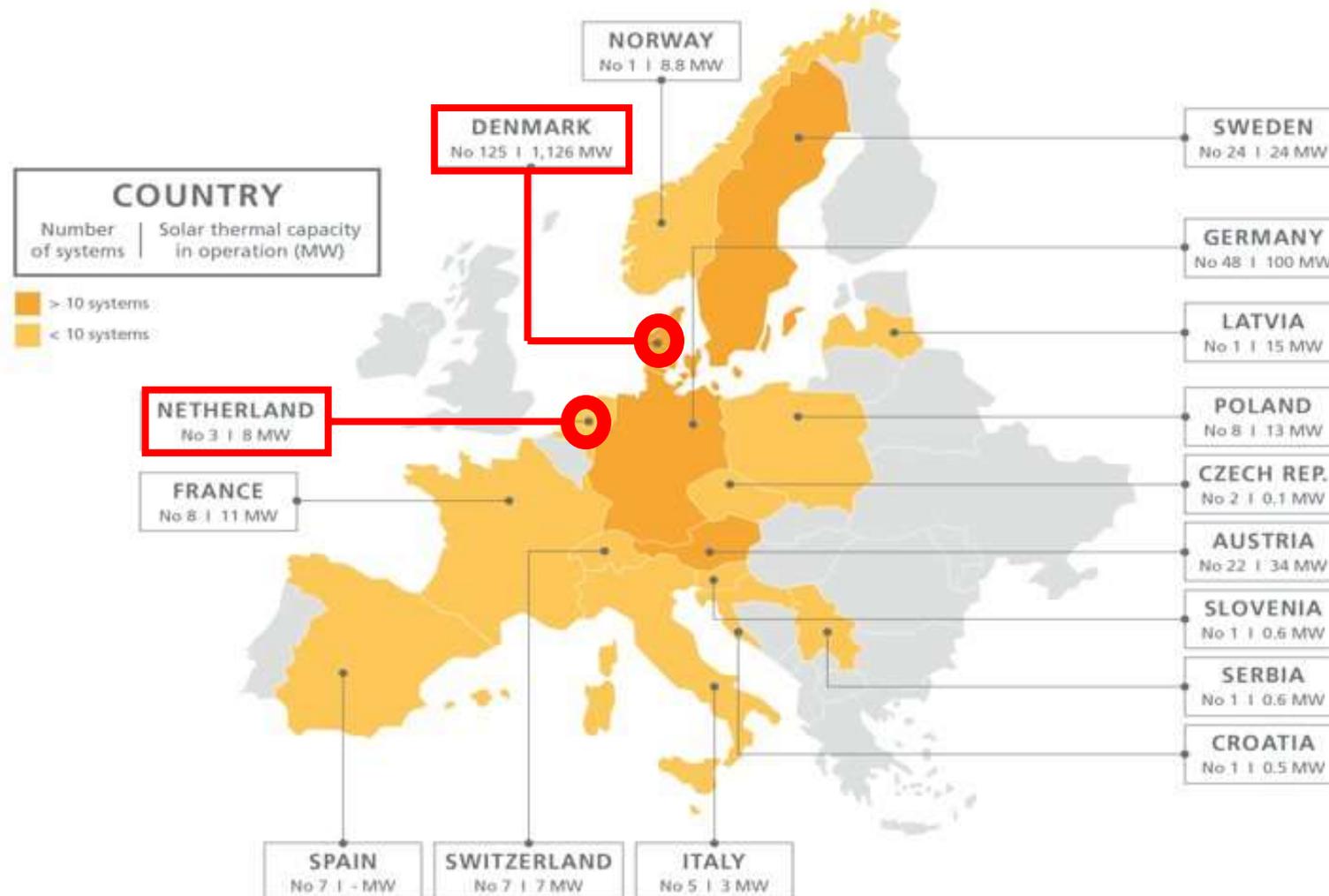
**D3: Prepare and manage industry workshops.**



**D4: Prepare appealing documents for industry and public** in order to increase the knowledge regarding efficient SDH systems, the benefits from data and ways to cut costs.



# D.D4 Dissemination documents for industry and public



# High temperature through large lenses

**Square meters /  
nominal power:**  
2 240 m<sup>2</sup>

**Interesting detail:**

- Output 1,400 mWh/year
- In-out temp. 40°C -> 160°C (flexible)
- 2 axis tracking

# High performance through long-lasting vacuum

**Square meters / nominal power:** 48 000 m<sup>2</sup>  
(in construction)

## Interesting detail:

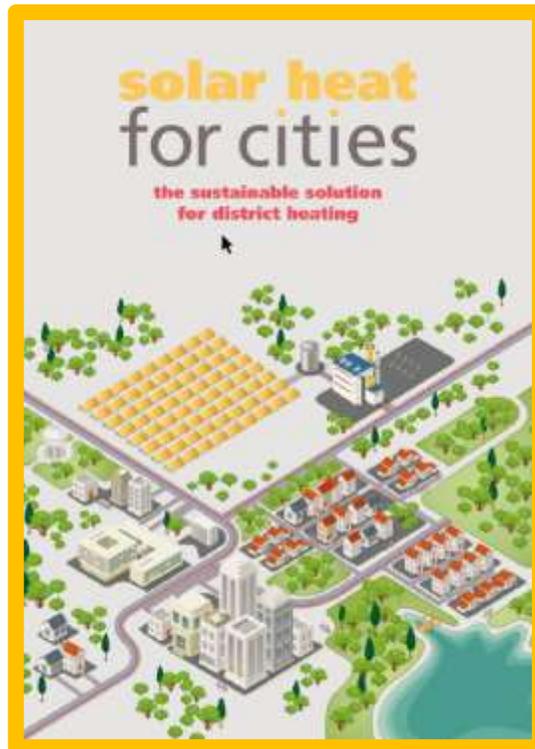
- Output: **37 MW**
- **6000 m<sup>3</sup>** storage tank
- Operating nearly all year round at **80°C**



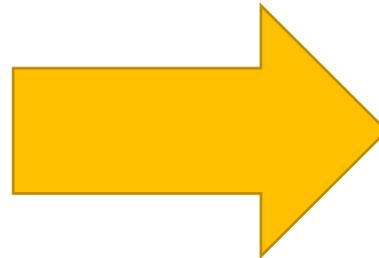
# Current work and preliminary results – Dissemination documents for industry and public

- Further source of information:

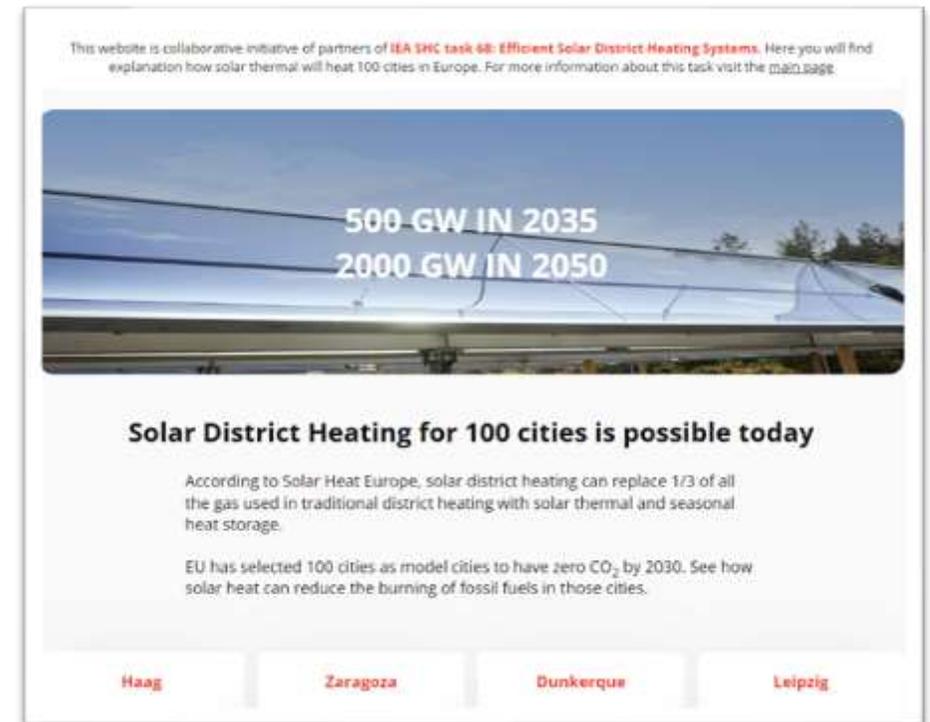
## Task 55



LINK: [files.iea-shc.org/public/mrj/d-d2-investor-brochure.pdf](https://files.iea-shc.org/public/mrj/d-d2-investor-brochure.pdf)



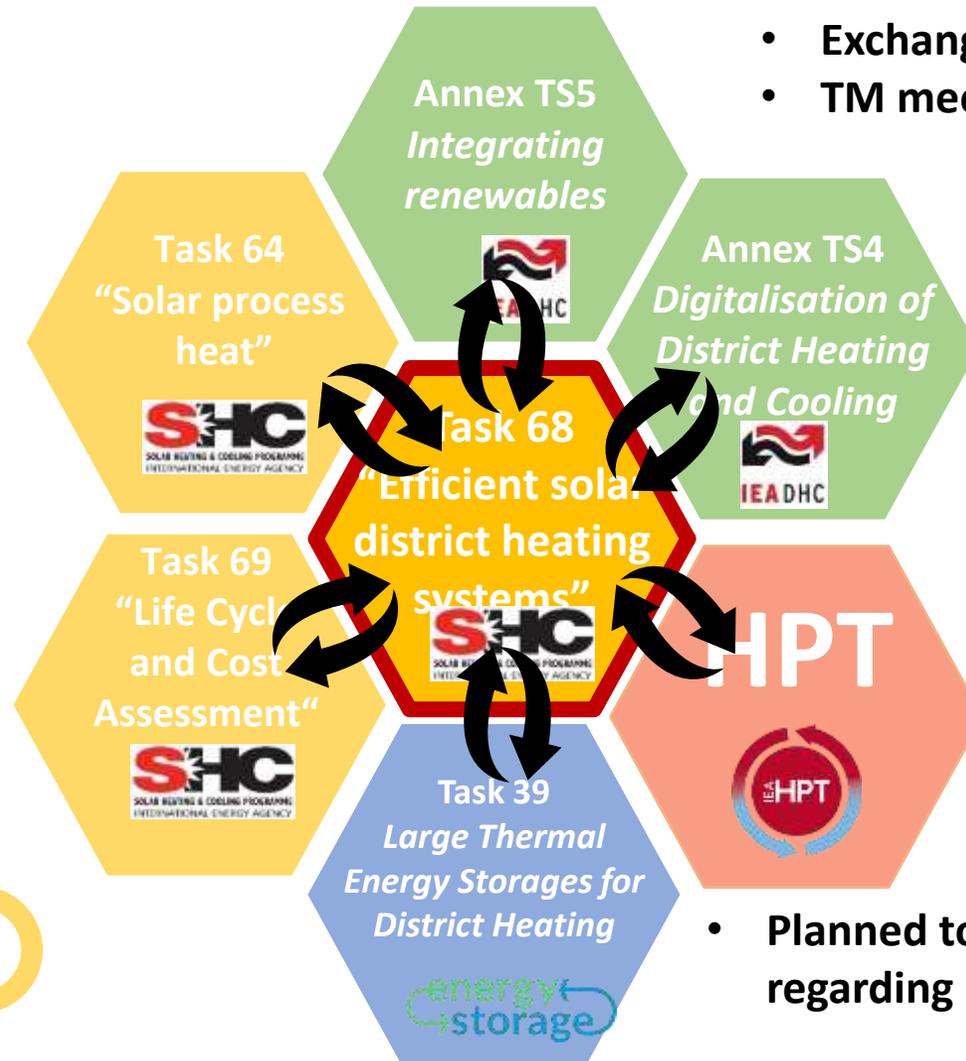
## Task 68



Website for cities:  
[www.solardistrictheating.eu](http://www.solardistrictheating.eu)

# Collaboration Overview

- Aligned meeting
- Organization of technical tours
- Exchange of task experts



- Joint meeting in Sweden October 2023
- Exchange of experts
- TM meetings



- TCP Workshop in Graz
- Exchange on TM level



- Highly suitable for collaboration regarding costs (Task 68 / subtask C)



- Participation in Task meeting Annex 56 IoT for Heat Pumps
- Planned to have a joint meeting in the future



- Planned to have a joint meeting regarding large-scale storages



# Timeline



Are you interested ?

**JOIN US** for our next Task Meeting in October in Härnösand together with Annex Ts 5 *Integrating renewables* 😊





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TASK 68

# Efficient Solar District Heating Systems

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# Efficient solar district heating systems

## SHC Task 68



[www.iea-shc.org](http://www.iea-shc.org)

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 IEA Solar Heating and Cooling Programme  
(group 4230381)