



Project Fact Sheet

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Increasing the market implementation of solar-air-conditioning systems for small and medium applications in residential and commercial buildings (SOLAIR)

Programme area: ALTENER, small-scale applications

Status: ongoing



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Website: www.solair-project.eu

Objective: To explore and promote the market implementation of small and medium-sized solar air-conditioning appliances

Benefits: Exchange of know-how on technological status quo

Keywords: solar air-conditioning, space heating and cooling, market survey

Duration: 01/2007 – 12/2009

Budget: € 1,187,375.00 (EU contribution: 49.98 %)

Contract number: EIE/06/034/SI2.446612



Short description

Electricity consumption for air-conditioning is increasing dramatically throughout the EU. The use of solar thermal energy for air-conditioning in buildings – so far a relatively new technology – offers a potential alternative and huge unexploited potential.

The SOLAIR project will promote the market implementation of small and medium-sized solar air-conditioning appliances with a focus on the residential as well as commercial sector and the combination of domestic hot water supply and space heating with air-conditioning.

SOLAIR intends to resolve major market obstacles - such as the lack of awareness, know-how and coherent information – through market surveys, capacity building, qualification and promotion for stakeholders and investors.

Expected and/or achieved results

- Compilation of best practice
- Development of technical guidelines and training materials
- Consultation and information of investors and decision makers
- Awareness raising campaigns with high replication

Lessons learnt

Although the project has not been completed it is possible to draw the following preliminary conclusions:

- Following barriers for SAC technology has been identified (although a trend toward the increase of the SAC market has been registered):
 - systems' costs are extremely high compared to standard cooling appliances
 - few experiences and realised applications
 - lack of monitoring data and follow up activities
- Scarce availability of information (difficulties in the collection of market data and information in the partner countries, both from a technical and economical point of view) and lack of knowledge among technicians, investors and market actors (however, at the same time also a strong interest among these target groups has been recognised).
- Public interest: there is an increasing interest on SAC technology also in the general public.