



## PRESS RELEASE

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### Is the geothermal energy too well hidden ?

EGEC had the opportunity to see the draft of the EC Communication “Financing Low carbon technologies (SET-Plan)” where the only renewable electricity technology not mentioned is geothermal power !

Before the Commission presents this document, the geothermal industry wants to outline its recommendations for the content of such a communication:

The attainment of the 2020 RES target will require the use of the all renewable energy sources, among which geothermal electricity.

**A Renewable energy mix can not be reached in the future without geothermal energy: don't ignore it now, the future is there !**

Currently the European Union is setting up a number of initiatives to increase both security and competitiveness of our energy supply. Renewable Energies play a substantial role here. However, looking at initiatives like the European Economic Recovery Plan or, even more, the strategic energy technology plan (SET-P), reveals that there is nothing said concerning geothermal energy.

Is the geothermal sector still too small? Too well hidden?

If governments do not fully appreciate the geothermal contribution to solving the energy problems, maybe it is good to look at the private sector.

And so we read with great pleasure and satisfaction, that participants of the World Economic Forum-2009 in Davos concluded that geothermal energy will offer the best possible cost-effectiveness of renewable sources. To quote from the relevant report:

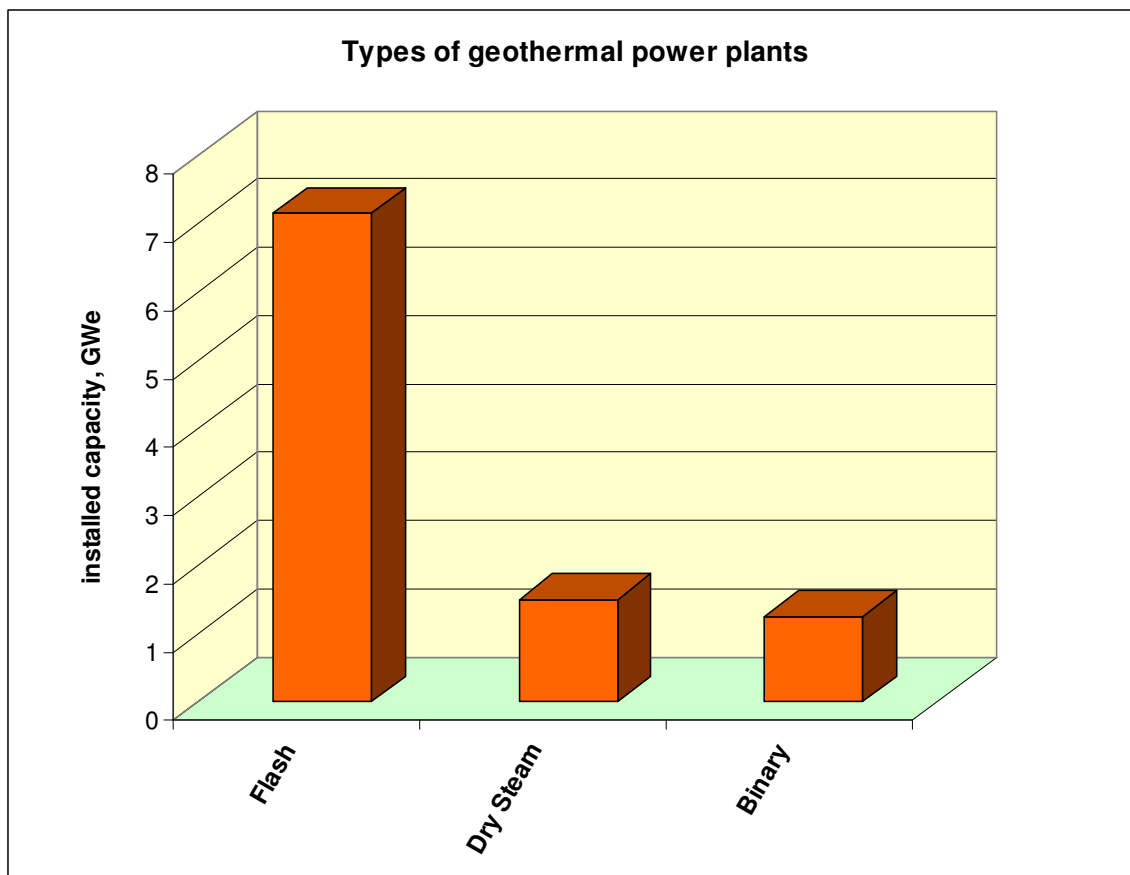
“Geothermal Power is particularly attractive as a renewable energy source because it can be used as predictable base-load power...”,

and: “ ...a raft of new approaches has helped make it economically viable across a wider area”.

***Indeed, a major advantage of geothermal energy is the availability of the resource all day and night, throughout the year: a load to the grid, operating up to 100% of time (the best ratio of all energy technologies!).***

As demonstrated in numerous sites since already 1904, heat from the underground can be converted into electricity at very competitive price (0,05 €/kWh). At present around

10 GWe of geothermal power plants are installed all over the world, figure which is expected to double to 20 GWe during the next 7 years, according to the new projects that are under development. But the relevant resources are far from being fully developed in Europe.



Two innovative geothermal power technologies will help the EU towards a green security of supply:

- The concept of **Enhanced Geothermal Systems** is going to add a tremendous increase to the potential, allowing the development of geothermal plants everywhere in Europe.
- **Innovative binary power plants** will permit the production of electricity using low thermal water temperatures of the order of 80-100 °C:

*Last week, the Low Bin project (supported by the EC-FP6, being coordinated by CRES, Dr. C. Karytsas) inaugurated a research geothermal electricity plant in Simbach-Braunau in Austria .*

*The Italian and European leading turbines manufacturer Turboden developed a pilot binary Geothermal ORC system enabling the exploitation of one of the world lowest temperature geothermal reservoirs (80°C) for power generation at the warm weather conditions encountered in Austria during the summer! At full load the ORC machine*

*delivers 200 kW of electricity. Initial monitoring results proved a reliable machine with quiet and vibrations free operation with no visual impact to local environment.*



*The Simbach Braunau demonstration site is located within the Upper Austrian Molasse Basin. The injection and production wells reach a final depth of 1850m and 1970m respectively. Production temperature amounts at 80°C approximately, and the corresponding flow rate is 35 lt/s artesian and 75 lt/s by pumping.*

*Local district heating scheme has a total length of 30 km and serves 750 consumers or 5000 households. Installed thermal power amounts at 35 MW, 9,3 MW of which correspond to geothermal heat delivered at 80°C and reinjected at 50°C.*

*More information on <http://www.lowbin.eu>*

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