

Press Release

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»Renewable Energy Innovation Policy«

Fraunhofer offers energy technology and market potential analyses from a single source

The Fraunhofer Institute for Solar Energy Systems ISE in Freiburg and the Fraunhofer Institute for Systems and Innovation Research ISI in Karlsruhe have established the joint research group »Renewable Energy Innovation Policy« which assumed its duties on 1 July 2009. With the founding of this research group both institutes take into account the increasing need for an ever closer integration of technology development and applied research with economic systems analysis and innovation research.

Mitigating climate change and creating a sustainable and secure energy supply system for the future represent a huge challenge for German and European energy research. At the same time, this offers an opportunity to further increase the economic competitiveness of European energy research, through the development and successful market positioning of new technologies. This requires - besides further technological breakthroughs - the development of appropriate economic strategies for the research, demonstration and market diffusion of new innovations.

The renewable energy sector will play an increasingly significant role in this context. It is characterized primarily by the growing diversity and the ever shorter development times of new technology concepts. In order to keep pace with this momentum, a closer integration of existing competences in the area of technology development and applied research with economic systems analysis and innovation research is required.

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The research group »Renewable Energy Innovation Policy« which began its work on 1 July 2009 will close this gap. The group was founded by the Fraunhofer Institute for Solar Energy Systems ISE in Freiburg as well as the Fraunhofer Institute for Systems and Innovation Research ISI in Karlsruhe. The objective of the new research group is to combine the experience of ISI in systems analysis and innovation research with the broad technological expertise of ISE in the area of renewable energies.

The resulting synergy effects permit an in-depth analysis of the technological as well as the economic potential of various forms of solar energy generation and their significance for a sustainable energy supply in the future. Another central issue will additionally be the evaluation and further development of existing promotional policies, whilst taking the changing framework conditions in the energy sector into account.

The group will be led by Dr. Mario Ragwitz (ISI) and Dr. Thomas Schlegl (ISE). Mario Ragwitz is head of the Business Unit Renewable Energies in the Competence Center Energy Policy and Energy Systems at Fraunhofer ISI. Thomas Schlegl is head of Strategy Planning at Fraunhofer ISE and head of the Fraunhofer Energy Allianz.

With this new group, the Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft is offering its partners in industry and research a new service by means of which technologies can be investigated and appropriately steered from the earliest stage of their development with a view to their later innovation potential on the energy market. This offers the customers the possibility of efficient and goal-oriented research which from the very beginning targets as strong a market position as possible for the developed technologies.

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The Press Release text can be downloaded from our web page: www.ise.fraunhofer.de

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