

## IEA Task 24 Newsletter

16 June , 1999

The Task is in its second year of the first round with smaller national projects.

The task now has participation from Canada, Denmark, Netherlands, Sweden and finally Switzerland has just joined the group. Possible new participating countries might be Germany, Austria, France, United Kingdom and United States.

The experts of the task had a successful meeting in Utrecht in May 1999, including evaluation of the task, workshop for potential buyer groups and site visits.

Task A is in the phase of identifying potential buyer groups, and interesting and successful cases from the participating countries were presented at the meeting. For instance tenders with up to 1000 plants, and some tenders that resulted in 40% price reduction.

Sweden is focussing on large plants, and Heimo Zinko presented specifications of collector systems for large applications with criteria for energy production, product requirements etc.

In Canada the focus is on the economy: Payback time of maximum five years is important to show strong business cases to the buyers. Gerald Van Decker emphasised that we have to think of "feel" – meaning that it is not enough with exact knowledge about solar heating, no, it has to appeal to people's feelings.

Christian Völlmin from Switzerland pointed at the fact that a lot of people in Switzerland consider a solar water collector as giving prestige and a green image. There has been a competition for small houses with 12 entries meeting all the requirements. The plants are now being sold with subsidies.

Holland has formed buyer groups with housing associations, utilities, and project developers. For the project developers a tender has already taken place, and for 1999 the plans are to identify concrete solar heating projects for the buyer groups, but also to form new buyer groups.

In Denmark meeting with possible buyer groups has been held, and brochures, articles have been produced and published. However, Lotte Gramkow emphasised that it is now important to take the difficult step for possible buyer groups from interest to dedication to actually become buyers of solar heating plants.

From Task B draft version of the first half of the Book of Tools has been drawn up, and was discussed at the meeting. Based on the discussion those chapters will be finished, and a outline for the next chapters will be drawn up, based on or including examples of tenders. Thus the rest of the chapters will be worked out in 1999. The first version of the book will come out as a working tool for the Task in year 2000.

The task has a web site: [www.IEAtask24.org](http://www.IEAtask24.org), and it was decided to include list of events on that site. Please contact the web site or The Operating Agent, Hans Westling for further information. A status report including Minutes from the meeting in Utrecht can be delivered from Operating Agent Hans Westling: [Hans.westling@promandat.se](mailto:Hans.westling@promandat.se).

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