

Brussels, 07 May 2018

The annual conference of the European Technology and Innovation Platform for Photovoltaics on “QUALITY AND SUSTAINABILITY OF PV SYSTEMS” took place on 03 May, 2018 in Brussels, Belgium

- Over 130 PV specialists discussed the “QUALITY AND SUSTAINABILITY OF PV SYSTEMS”
- Feedback loop from downstream to upstream is essential to define what is really needed in terms of quality checks of PV components

Industry leaders as well as top-ranking scientists, engineers and policy makers discussed "Quality and sustainability as an asset for the European Industry". Over 130 PV specialists from 16 European countries attended the conference.

The Conference was chaired by the ETIP PV Chairman Marko Topič, who opened the conference. The Program included five sessions:

SESSION I: Quality in solar PV: what can we learn from other EU and Global Initiatives?

Chair: David Moser, EURAC Research and ETIP PV Steering Committee member

SESSION II: Does quality have an impact on bankability?

Chair: Gaëtan Masson, ETIP PV Vice-Chairman

SESSION III: Eco design, Ecolabeling and Green Procurement Policies – enabling more sustainable Photovoltaics?

Chair: Leah Charpentier, First Solar



SESSION IV: Quality and reliability, experience from the field

Chair: Achim Woyte, 3E and ETIP PV Steering Committee member

SESSION V: R&D&I Panel discussion – How to address quality in practice?

Chair: Andreas Bett, Fraunhofer ISE and ETIP PV Steering Committee member

ETIP PV Chairman Marko Topič stated: “All five sessions confirmed from different angles and perspectives that quality and sustainability matters. In all respects there is room for further growth. In search for a balance between low-cost and high-quality / durability concepts of scoreboards and eco-labelling of products has been welcomed.

Sustainability of the whole PV sector will be assured if everyone across the value chain, both upstream and downstream, makes profit.”

David Moser, the Programme Chair of the conference, came to the conclusions:

- quality in PV has a leverage effect with the benefits that can clearly offset the added costs
- bankability is a variable concept depending on stakeholders and context while quality is an absolute value
- feedback loop from downstream to upstream is essential to define what is really needed in terms of quality checks of PV components
- large scale performance data are much needed to be able to better assess and improve the assumptions in business models

The only way to achieve a sustainable development of PV technology must be to focus on quality products and procedures. All stakeholders involved in PV plant design and installation need to collaborate and engage for a sustainable long-term selection of products and systems.



Note to editors:

The European Technology and Innovation Platform Photovoltaics (**ETIP PV**) is a continuation of the European PV Technology Platform (EU PVTP) and the Solar European Industry Initiative (SEII) in a single platform under the new SET Plan governance. The ETIP PV's mission is in line with the Energy Union and the SET Plan priorities with focus on “Renewable technologies at the heart of the new energy system” and Europe to become “number 1 in renewables”. ETIP PV gathers all the relevant stakeholders of the PV sector, with arrangements for cooperative discussions with member states (MS), associated countries (AC), and the Commission services. Its main role is to provide consensus-based strategic advice on all issues relevant to progressing research and innovation (R&I) efforts.

For further information please contact:

Bernhard Krause, ETIP PV Secretariat (info@etip-pv.eu)

www.etip-pv.eu

