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Wood making comeback as power source

Cyprus takes on solar challenge

Facebook page against price of power

Cyprus takes on solar challenge

Non-profit educational science organisation, the Cyprus Institute (CYI), has begun carrying out pioneering research into solar energy after securing a grant of €515,000 from the EU.

Assistant professor of the Energy Environment and Water Research Centre of the CYI Aris Bonanos said the OPTS project (optimisation of a thermal energy storage system with integrated steam generator), aims to investigate energy storage methods in solar applications.

"As one word is not always available, this research will aim to find innovative ways to store solar energy during the day so that it can be used at night," said Bonanos.

He added that the OPTS project, funded by the EUs Seventh Framework Programme will attempt to develop this new system for thermal energy storage using molten salts in order to provide efficient, reliable and economic energy storage for the next generation of solar-thermal plants.

"The concept is very simple but the research methods we are using are new and extremely complicated."

The OPTS project is the result of an incubation process that took place within the Joint Programme on Concentrated Solar Power of the European Energy Research Alliance.

It is aimed at accelerating the development and deployment of cost-effective low, carbon technologies for the achievement of Europe's 2020 targets and visions on greenhouse gas emissions, renewable energy and energy efficiency.

The three-year project, which has a European Commission financial contribution of over €8m is coordinated by the Italian National Agency for New Technologies, Energy and Sustainable Economic Development (ENEA) and involves 10 other partners, from France, Germany, Israel, Spain and Portugal.

"The fact that Cyprus has secured this grant is remarkable and proves that the CYI is now a big player in global solar research," concluded Bonanos.

INNOVATIVE: ***The Cyprus Institute has launched pioneering research into the storage of solar energy***