



Project SOPHIA
PhotoVoltaic European Research Infrastructure
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D5.8 – Sophia Interim Workshop

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1. Executive summary

1.1. Description of the deliverable content and purpose

This deliverable deals with the Work Package 5 – Networking Activity 05 about dissemination of knowledge and internal and external communication, and more specifically with the Interim Workshop and its proceeding. This workshop targeted the industry, innovative SMEs and researchers.

This deliverable will describe:

- The organisation of the Interim Workshop, with a presentation of its key features.
- The way the Workshop was carried out, with reference to the areas covered during the various sessions.
- The elements of the Interim Workshop concretely aimed at addressing the importance of the project for the PV industry.

1.2. Deviation from objectives, corrective action

The Interim Workshop was intentionally delayed compared to the initial planning (M24). The agreed delay was aimed at organising the Workshop during InterSolar Europe 2013. This is a major annual international exhibition for photovoltaics, gathering both participants from the industry and from the research world. It was foreseen that the exhibition would act as a catalyst in order to obtain increased participation from both categories of targeted stakeholders.

The event took place on one day, instead of two. This was done for two main reasons: on the one hand, it was agreed that an event more focused in time would attract more participants; second, it was evident that the results (given their quantity) could be disseminated effectively within the daily time frame.

In addition to the one-day workshop, EPIA took the opportunity to build up on the Intersolar fair by developing synergies with another event. In particular, EPIA intensely advertised the Workshop and tackled some of the issues dealt with by the SOPHIA project during an event that took place the previous day within InterSolar. This event was the highlight EPIA event at InterSolar 2013. It was very well attended by industry representatives and constituted an excellent occasion of dissemination for the SOPHIA event.

As a result, the Interim Workshop took place in M29, during one day (20 June 2013). The corresponding deliverable was drafted in M33 because of a change in the person in charge right after the event.

1.3. Technical progress

There is no 'technical progress' to report because this activity is related to communication and management.

1.4. Impact of the results

Some data about the workshop:

- 75 registrations
- Around 40 participants
- 5 agenda sessions
- A guided visit to the GE Global Research Lab – Munich Centre
- A direct link to an important industry event

The participants came from a broad and diverse range of institutions and entities. These ranged from academia to research centres, from SMEs to large companies, from consultancies to large insurance players. Such a variety represents an element of success for the workshop, as a broad participation was crucial to spread results to and receive feedback by the industry.

Many of the registered participants from the industry attended both the industry event the previous day and the SOPHIA event. This is a demonstration of the positive synergies achieved between the two events.

2. Technical section

2.1. Timing, venue and agenda

The timing of the event was chosen so as to maximise the participation of representatives from the PV industry, as well as from the PV research community. The event took place during the international exhibition Intersolar Europe.

Intersolar Europe was chosen as it represents – according to its organisers – ‘the world’s largest exhibition for the solar industry and its partners. In 2013, 1,330 international exhibitors and round 50,000 trade visitors attended Intersolar Europe. The exhibition focuses on the areas of photovoltaics, PV production technologies, energy storage and solar thermal technologies.’ There was therefore a clear advantage in logistics, as the targeted audience was already in the area where the event took place.

The Workshop built up also on the attendance and partly on the results of the event on quality and bankability that was organised by EPIA the previous day. This was a sought-for synergy, as it allowed for:

- Building more interest in the project among a target audience
- Further disseminating the project main messages and results so far

The venue was chosen within walking distance from the exhibition halls where the fair was taking place. This was done in order to facilitate the access of those who are interested in the Workshop and came from the fair.

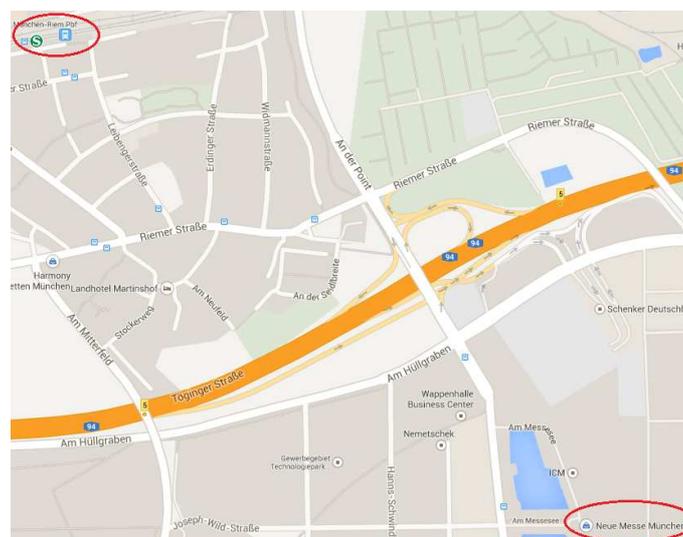


Fig.1: The location of the exhibition ground (bottom right corner) and the Workshop venue (top left corner).

The agenda was drafted on the basis of the Joint Research Activities that are currently being carried out within the project. The aim was to give those who were involved the possibility

to present their findings in the various areas. Furthermore, the topics were grouped, so as to provide both the speakers and the audience with the possibility to have discussions on several topics and to provide useful ideas across the various issues.

2.2. Workshop content

The Workshop was introduced by a visit to the GE Global Research Lab in Munich. This initial gathering was aimed at setting the scene and providing useful input for the forthcoming discussion. The participants – limited to 20 people due to restrictions of the Lab – were able to visit their test and research centre, in particular the part regarding PV. They were guided through it by a senior GE official. Quite relevantly to the rest of the Workshop, the machinery examined included: testing appliances for mechanical shocks, monitoring tools for outdoor installations, some BIPV component prototypes as well as environmental chambers for ageing tests.

The opening address of the Workshop was given by Philippe Malbranche, SOPHIA project coordinator. His presentation aimed at introducing SOPHIA. He therefore touched upon the aim of the project, the main areas of work, as well as the composition of the project partners and the calls that have taken place so far.

The technology sessions focused on the Joint Research Activities performed so far. In certain cases results were announced during the workshop. In some cases it was specified that results would be presented in future publications.

All sessions included presentations from the experts convened and were followed by panel discussions. The participation of the audience in the panel discussion was constructive, with interventions and questions on all the examined technologies. The points discussed during the Workshop will be taken into account by the project partners as a source of input in their future activities. The interventions made during the second session developed the positive synergies built up during the event on quality and bankability that took place the previous day.

The first session focused on the crystalline silicon, thin film and organic technologies. Three experts gave their presentations on the research activities carried out in their respective areas:

- Thin film – Martha Lux-Steiner, Helmholtz Berlin (15 min)
- C-Si – Wilhelm Warta, Fraunhofer ISE (20 min)
- Organic Technologies, Hiflex Project – Sjoerd Veenstra, ECN (20 min)

After the presentations, the panel discussion was moderated by Martha Lux Steiner.

The second session had a clear focus on system performance and life time prediction. Three experts gave presentations on the research activities carried out in the various areas:

- Module performance and lifetime prediction – Alberto Pozza, European Commission Joint Research Centre (15 min)
- Performance Analysis & Reliability – Ulrike Jahn, TUV Rheinland/Task 13 (20 min)
- Materials Matter™ - Accelerated vs. Fielded Testing – Stephan Padlewski, DuPont Photovoltaic Solutions (20 min)

The chair and moderator of this session was Alberto Pozza, from the Joint Research Centre, European Commission. He replaced Nigel Taylor, still from the JRC.

The third session built up on the work done on CPV technologies and BIPV applications. The moderator for the session was Helen Rose Wilson, from Fraunhofer ISE. Four presentations were given by experts in their respective research areas:

- CPV – Maïke Wiesenfarth, Fraunhofer ISE (20 min)
- CPV – Competitive solar electricity for the South of Europe and the Sunbelt region- Gerhard Strobl, Azur Space Solar Power(20 min)
- BIPV – Siwanand Misara, Fraunhofer IWES (20 min)
- SMART-Flex project presentation – Andrius Stonkus, Applied Research Institute for Prospective Technologies Lithuania (15 min)

The conclusions were drawn by Werner Coppye, 3E. He focused on the way forward for the organisation of the EU R&D in the future. This included three main points:

- Agility of the EU roadmap to adapt to market conditions
- R&D to support the industry
- Importance of EU industry competitiveness

2.3. Promotion of the event

The event was actively promoted by EPIA through a number of communication tools.

The event was announced in three different mailings, prepared by EPIA. The mailings were sent out during the months of May and June 2013; they included a 'Save the date', an invitation and a final reminder. The mailings were addressed to almost 16000 contacts.

A dedicated section in the events area of the EPIA website was created for the event (see image below).

Past Events

Order by type
Order by date

- EPIA's 'Quality and ...
October 29 2013
- Financing Tools Revi ...
October 23 2013
- PV GRID European For ...
October 22 2013**
- SOPHIA Workshop on S ...
October 7 2013
- PV PARITY Final Work ...
October 4 2013
- 10th European PV Ind ...
October 1 2013
- EPIA Area at the 28t ...
October 1 2013
- 28th European Photov ...
September 30 2013
- IEA PVPS Task 1 & EP ...
September 30 2013
- SOPHIA Workshop on " ...
September 16 2013

SOPHIA Conference

Coordinated European R&D - Keystone for the reinforcement of the PV industry
20 June 2013 - Munich, Germany

The conference was held in the framework of the SOPHIA European project and in conjunction with the International solar trade fair Intersolar Europe.

Different stakeholders gathered to discuss R&D as the backbone of the PV industry. Results and experiences from different experts and researchers in the field were shared in order to provide a common referential to conduct efficient and coordinated research work in the field of PV technologies. The conference stood as a link between the research community and industrial members with a sole purpose to coordinate activities and strengthen the PV industry.

The event also included an interactive panel discussion and welcomed around 100 representatives the PV industry, PV research community, laboratories and innovative SMEs.

The agenda is available [here](#).

A visit at the General Electric Laboratories was also organised.

More information on the SOPHIA project and the Conference is available [here](#).

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CALENDAR

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Calendar of Events

Download the 2013/14 EPIA Calendar of Events

Fig.2: dedicated section EPIA website – SOPHIA Interim Workshop

The event was also promoted at the EPIA booth during the Intersolar exhibition. The agenda of the event was distributed to all interested parties and visitors.

Furthermore, EPIA built synergies with the EPIA at Intersolar 2013 'From PV Quality to Bankability' event. Focusing on photovoltaic (PV) modules, this workshop presented the state-of-the-art technology and discussed the challenges of the industry's ongoing commitment to improving quality and reliability. Given the importance of these topics within the SOPHIA project, EPIA organised an information desk for SOPHIA. EPIA actively communicated to the invited audience the content of the project and invited the participants to the interim workshop, the following day.

The event was also announced on the SOPHIA website.

2.4. Results and improvements

The participation of stakeholders coming from a broad variety of entities testifies of the importance of the project and of its nature of bridge between the PV R&D world and the industry.

Organising the Workshop during the important PV exhibition Intersolar Europe certainly contributed to increasing the number of participants and their involvement in the sessions, as well as to broadening the range of involved stakeholders.

Linking the SOPHIA event to a previous event, dedicated to the industry contributed to enlarging the industry participation in the SOPHIA Workshop.

For the final event, we believe it would be beneficial that all partners involved in the task promoted it directly. This would include publishing it on their website and promoting it during events and fairs.

Another point for future improvement in an event with an industry focus regards the presentation of the results obtained in the research activities carried out within the project. In particular, the presentations should emphasise, among the various results, those that can be used by the industry. Furthermore, a time frame for the possible utilisation of the results should be foreseen (e.g.: when the results presented could be applied).

2.5. Deviations from the Description of Work

The main deviation from the Description of Work was on the timing of the Workshop. Instead of taking place on M24, the Workshop was postponed to M29. This allowed for more time to get further results from the JRAs. Most importantly, this delay was agreed in order to organise the event in conjunction with Intersolar Europe and enlarge the possible audience.

The Workshop was also organised on one day instead of the initially planned two. This was done for two reasons:

- 1) It was agreed that an event more focused in time would attract more participants;
- 2) It was evident that the results (given their quantity) could be disseminated effectively within the daily time frame.

3. Conclusions

The Interim Workshop took place in M29. It was attended by a wide range of stakeholders. The final number of participants was around 40. The participants from the PV industry and research were informed about the results attained by the project until that moment. The comments and the interventions made during the Workshop constituted feedback for those involved in the Joint Research Activities.

Some points for further improvement can be identified: enhance the participation the other partners involved in the task in the promotion of the event and better target the content of all the presentation to the foreseen industry recipients.