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KIC InnoEnergy launches Delphos STE to drive innovation

KIC InnoEnergy, the innovation engine for Europe's energy industry, has today launched a Solar Thermal Electricity (STE) version of its online modelling tool, Delphos. The update follows the success of the on and offshore wind version of the tool which was released in May this year.

Like the wind version, Delphos STE makes it easier for innovators to bring products in the field of solar energy to market. When used during research and development, innovators can access Delphos' vast library of existing data or input their own to run modelling scenarios.

These scenarios are then able to predict how the innovation will impact the overall cost of energy produced using the levelised cost of energy as overarching indicator.

"Innovation is a key factor in driving down costs and making sustainable energy sources ever more competitive," says Antoni Martinez, KIC InnoEnergy's Chief Technology Officer for renewables. "Delphos allows innovators to model their new products in development and to accurately predict the effect their product will have on the levelised cost of energy.

"And because of the way we're making this tool available online, many smaller developers and innovators will have access to data which may once have only been the preserve of large STE companies. For us it's all about supporting innovation on its way to market."

One of the key contributors of data to help build the model was PSA-Ciemat who operate the world's largest R&D centre devoted to concentrating solar thermal systems.

Eduardo Zarza, PSA-Ciemat, says: "Delphos is an extremely useful tool and we are delighted to see the release of the STE version to the industry. The modelling provides real insight and understanding into how new products and innovations can impact the costs of energy produced by solar thermal power plants. It will also make extensive sets of data available to many people in the STE sector who might not otherwise be able to access or afford it."

Delphos is exhibiting at KIC InnoEnergy's The Business Booster event this week at stand 10 so anyone visiting the conference will be able to see the functionality of the tool first-hand.

Delphos STE is available for free via the KIC InnoEnergy website at http://www.kic-innoenergy.com/delphos/.

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About Delphos

KIC InnoEnergy's new cost evaluation platform, Delphos, is designed to make publicly available a series of cost models and basic datasets to improve the analysis of the impact of innovations on costs and to allow the research community, industry, policy makers and investors to make robust decisions about the role of innovation in the energy sector as well as to feed their strategy definition processes.

KIC InnoEnergy's goal is that Delphos become a reference tool for the evaluation of the impact of single and concrete innovation on the typical economical parameters of energy facilities, being the levelised cost of energy (LCOE) the key indicator. Delphos provides a simple but exhaustive methodology to assess the impact of innovation on typical renewable energies power plants such as wind energy (onshore and offshore), photovoltaics (coming soon) and solar-thermal electricity.

KIC InnoEnergy, together with BVG Associates, is developing credible future technology cost models in four renewable energy generation technologies using a consistent methodology. Delphos is an online and simplified version of these cost models.

The purpose of these cost models is to enable the impact of innovations on the levelised cost of energy (LCOE) to be explored and tracked in a consistent way across the four technologies and over the next 12 to 15 years. A specificity of those models is that the impact of innovations is not only modelled according to their technicality but also taking into account their marketability. While the priority is to help focus on key innovations, Delphos also consider real world effects to ensure a realistic overall LCOE trajectory.

About KIC InnoEnergy (www.kic-innoenergy.com)

KIC InnoEnergy is the European company dedicated to promoting innovation, entrepreneurship and education in the sustainable energy field by bringing together academics, business and research institutes. KIC InnoEnergy´s goal is to make a positive impact on sustainable energy in Europe, by creating future game changers with a different mind-set, and bringing innovative products, services and successful companies to life.

With its headquarters in the Netherlands, KIC InnoEnergy develops its activities across a network of offices located in Belgium, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Spain, Portugal, Poland and Sweden. More than 150 partners contribute to KIC InnoEnergy's activities, forming a first class and dynamic network that is always open to new entrants. The company's 27 shareholders are committed to a 7 year industrial plan in which they pledge to mobilise €700 million of resources during the period 2011-2015 alone.

KIC InnoEnergy is financially supported by the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) and, while a profit-oriented company, has a "not for dividend" financial strategy, reinvesting all its profits back into the organisation's activities.