



ENhanced Geothermal Innovative Network for Europe **ENGINE Coordination Action**

Report on the meeting of the Stakeholder Committee

Date and Time:

January 10, 2007 – 16h30 / 18h

Location:

GFZ Potsdam

Participants:

- ENGINE Executive Group
- ENGINE Steering Committee
- ENGINE Stakeholder Committee

The 10 January 2007 took place the 1st meeting of the Stakeholder Committee of the ENGINE Co-ordination Action. This committee has been created to enhance links between R&D teams and stakeholders, i.e. private or public firms and other authorities either already involved in geothermal energy, or possibly interested in the near future. Its aim is to provide information about on going R&D efforts in Europe about Enhanced Geothermal Systems and insight into the newest achievements made by industrial projects. Strategic guidance to the Executive Group and to Contractors in general is expected through suggestions and recommendations of the Committee.

The general question of demonstrating the efficiency of a large range of geothermal applications has first been raised. If all R&D teams and stakeholders are convinced, an effort of communication still has to be done to promote the geothermal energy as a cost-efficient alternative source of energy. This is a **first point of convergence** underlined during this meeting and a **communication plan** could be proposed for the next meeting.

Several stakeholders have expressed their interest for such an organisation as ENGINE that aims at co-ordinating present research and development initiatives for Enhanced Geothermal Systems. Thus, they have insisted on the need of good synthesis of the knowledge and collection of existing datasets for modelling and assessment of the resources, prior to drilling. R&D teams have, on their own, underlined the need of a sustainable support of industrial

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partners and public bodies to ambitious research projects. This is a **second point of convergence** that fully justifies the existence of the Stakeholder Committee. From this convergence of interest, and in agreement with its main objectives, ENGINE should play the role of a **scientific exchange platform** for promoting past and on-going experiences as well as successes by making them visible and reproducible.

The needs for research expressed by stakeholders are in general very specific of bottlenecks encountered for improving cost-efficiency of existing technologies like improvement of submersible pumps, better combination of heat and power generation, control of scaling in surface equipment. The main challenging problem that they have addressed is the exploration of the possible links between CO2 capture, sequestration and storage and geothermal energy.

For R&D teams involved in EGS, the proceedings of the mid-term conference reveals a wide spectrum of themes like the reduction of the geological risk during exploration of deep resources, development of new stimulation strategies, mitigation of the induced seismicity... These differences in establishing priorities are of course related to the fundamentally different missions of R&D and industrial projects. However, as mentioned above, the development of a **scientific exchange platform** is of common interest for both. **Definition of research projects** supported by the stakeholder committee should be a target for this platform that could be presented to the EU commission as a possible contribution for the future work programme of the FP7.

Stakeholders and R&D teams consider that the development of enhanced geothermal systems still requires the definition of an ambitious research program at the scale of Europe that will federate the research capacity and limit the financial risk by sharing the investment. Such a program, that could be for example an **European geothermal drilling program** requires an unified approach of both scientist and stakeholders and constitutes a **third point of convergence**. To achieve this goal, ENGINE, or another collaborative action after the end of ENGINE, must become a "political" platform that will have the technical and economic background to propose and support new projects. Among these new projects, the evaluation of the potential of former oil and gas field could also be one way to limit the risk and start new demonstration projects. Such an European geothermal drilling program could be promoted in parallel at the level of policy makers for implementing incentive politics for supporting geothermal energy as a contribution to achievements of EU objectives for renewable energies and greenhouse gas reduction.

The next meeting with the Executive Group and and Steering Committee is planned on the 20 September 2007, 2:00 pm in Brussels. At this occasion, the work package leader of the expert groups will present a first evaluation of the R&D priorities as defined in the framework of ENGINE.