



Historical perspective

Economical support for research and development on geothermal systems was first granted as a result of the oil crisis that started in the mid 1970's. The political objective at that time was to replace the dependence of oil for heating. The main funding institute was BFR (The Council for Building Research) who also funded a number of experimental and demonstration plants.

Since 1990 there have been no governmentally allocated grants for geothermal energy systems specifically. However, a few projects have had investment support from different funding programmes with funds limited to 30 % of total investment costs for high risk projects.

Current situation

Currently, there is only one programme that supports installation of geothermal heat pumps in Sweden. The programme was launched in 2006 and supports technical solutions that improve daily energy efficiency in Swedish residences.

The programme allocates 2 billion SEK (200 million euros) for energy consumers switching from heating with oil or unsustainably-generated electricity to heating with climate-friendly power over the 2006-2010 period. Households switching to bio fuel, solar power, heat pumps and/or direct heating systems will benefit from 30 % reduction for installation costs with a maximum limit of SEK 400 millions per year (~ 40 million euros).

The support for heat pump installation is granted at a rate of 30 % of investment costs, and limited to an amount of 10 000 SEK (1 000 euros). To apply for the investment support, you should contact the County Administrative Board (Länsstyrelsen).

Up till this year (2008) there have been two other programmes with possible grants for geothermal applications, The Climate Investment Programme (KLIMP) and The Programme for Efficient Energy use in Constitutional Buildings. In both cases the investment support was fixed at 30 % of total investment costs. At least one large ATES project has received such a support for its realisation (ATES for cooling of Arlanda Airport).

The Swedish Government announced lately its continuous support for climate and energy measures with 3 billions SEK allocated for investments in climate (300 millions euros), and a target of 4 billions SEK for the 2009-2011 period. It is not yet known whether geothermal systems will be concerned by these incentives.



7th Research Framework Programme (FP7)

Objective:

FP7 provides funding to co-finance research, technological development and demonstration projects based on competitive calls and independent peer review of project proposals. Support is available for collaborative and individual research projects as well as for the development of research skills and capacity.

How:

The recommended method to submit a proposal in (FP7) is through online proposal in the section: "Preparation and Submission".

Contacts and information:

http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/ncp_en.html

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Competitiveness and Innovation framework Programme (CIP)

Objective:

The Intelligent Energy for Europe IEE is one of the CIP operational programs. This pluri-annual program addresses small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and aims at promoting renewable energy sources for electricity production, heating and cooling applications

How:

Financial support from the European Community covers 75% of total eligible costs. To benefit from this help, applicants should reply ONLINE to a call for proposals published annually by the Executive Agency for Competitiveness and Innovation.

Contacts and information:

<http://ec.europa.eu/energy/intelligent/>

Cohesion Policy: Structural Funds and Cohesion Fund (SF)

Unlike FP7 and CIP, Structural Funds management is decentralised to regional or national bodies.

Contacts and information:

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/index_en.htm

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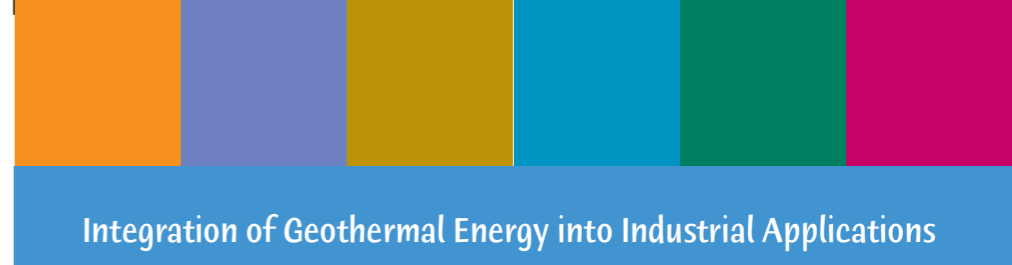


Geothermal technology provides power, heating and cooling for single households, cities, for tourism, industry and agriculture. Geothermal energy may be used in a number of ways in the industrial field. Potential applications could include drying, process heating, evaporation, distillation, washing, desalination, and chemical extraction. While there are many potential industrial uses of geothermal energy, the number of European applications is relatively small.

However, a fairly wide range of uses are represented: large retails and leisure, vegetable dehydration, fish processing and drying, and chemical recovery. Some large industrial applications exist in Europe: in Germany, in France and in Sweden. These systems provide the best present examples of industrial geothermal energy use.

These examples have to be replicated in Europe. The IGEIA consortium will analyze the needs of the industry in order to provide an answer with a geothermal installation taking into account local aspects. The next step is to customize the answer, for disseminating the “geothermal” products all over the EU industrial sector.

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