

The Future of Competitiveness: Cost Reduction Potentials for Solar and Wind Workshop as Input to the G20

23 March 2015, Bonn, Germany

Introduction

The International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) has been tasked by the G20 to undertake an analysis on improving the investment climate for renewables. Specifically, IRENA has been tasked with studying the following question:

Renewable energy is an important issue for energy diversification and security, as well as addressing environmental concerns. What are the perspectives for renewable energy in a low energy price environment?

IRENA has been invited to examine a number of issues under this broad question, including an assessment of the current competitiveness of renewables and future cost reduction potentials.

Join IRENA in Bonn, Germany to examine the future cost reduction potentials for solar PV, concentrating solar power (CSP), onshore and offshore wind. This workshop is a chance for stakeholders in industry, government and academia to present and discuss their views on these issues in order to assist IRENA in the development of its analysis of this topic.

In an era of low equipment costs, particularly for solar PV and to a lesser extent wind, future cost reduction opportunities are changing and balance of project costs, operations and maintenance costs and financing costs could potentially provide the largest cost reduction opportunities. At the same time, there remains a wide range of costs, both within countries and between countries. Understanding what represents “best practice” in different markets can help identify reasonable expectations for efficient cost levels in different markets at different stages of maturity.

This workshop is designed to engage with industry stakeholders and others to discuss the future cost reduction potentials and performance improvements for solar PV, CSP, onshore and offshore wind. It will discuss recent cost trends, what specific technology improvements and cost components offer the best opportunities for cost reduction, what are the order of magnitude of cost reduction potentials in the short- and medium-term, what are the barriers to unlocking future cost reductions, what role is there for international cooperation and collaboration, etc.

Draft Agenda

08:30 – 9:00 Registration

09:00 – 9:30 Introduction and Welcome

Introduction, welcome address and goals for the days work.

Speakers: Dr. Dolf Gielen, Director, IITC, IRENA
Michael Taylor, Senior Analyst, IITC, IRENA

9:30 – 11:30 Session One - Onshore Wind

[brief overview of session]

Speakers: Overview [speaker to be confirmed]
Ruth Brand-Schock, Enercon

11:30-13:00 Session Two – Offshore Wind

[brief overview of session]

Speakers: Andreas Wagner, German Offshore Wind Energy Foundation
Bent Christensen, Siemens
Ulrik Stridbæk, DONG Energy

13:00 – 14:00 Lunch

14:00 – 15:30 Session Three – Solar Photovoltaic

[brief overview of session]

Speakers: Simon Philipps, Fraunhofer ISE



Milan Nitzschke, Vice President and Spokesman of SolarWorld AG and President of EU ProSun

Dr. Benedikt Ortmann, CEO BayWa r.e. Solar Projects GmbH

15:30 – 17:00 Session Four – Concentrated Solar Power

[brief overview of session]

Speakers: [industry speaker to be confirmed]

17:00 Conclusions and next steps