



# News about **SFERA**

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## About the SFERA project

**Concentrated Solar Power (CSP)** is a very promising renewable source of energy. The best known application so far is bulk electricity generation through thermodynamic cycles, but other applications have also been demonstrated, such as production of hydrogen and solar fuels, water treatment and research in advance materials.

Europe is one of the leaders in research and development of this technology. In order to foster this leadership, the **EU-funded research project SFERA** (Solar Facilities for the European Research Area) has been launched in July 2009. It gathers **12 partners** among the leading European research institutions in solar concentrating systems.

The project combines three activities:

**Networking**  
**Transnational access**  
**Joint Research**

### EVENTS

[The 2<sup>nd</sup> SFERA Winter School at ETH Zürich 24-25 March 2011](#)

[The 2<sup>nd</sup> SFERA campaign for free access to solar facilities Deadline 01/03/2011](#)



Solar Facilities for the European Research Area

## Networking

**Networking** activities aim at the creation of a stable framework for co-operation in which resources are shared, common standards developed, duplication of research effort is avoided and interaction with European research, education and industry is encouraged.

### SFERA Winter/Summer Schools

The SFERA schools will be organized annually at one of the SFERA facilities until the end of the project in 2013.

- In 2010, PROMES-CNRS Laboratory in Odeillo, France organized the school on the topic *Radiation in Solar Systems*.
- In 2011, ETH in Zürich, Switzerland will organize the school on **24-25 March 2011**. This 2nd school will be dedicated to *Solar Fuels and Materials*. For more information, please click [here](#).

### Documents available for downloading

- The [SFERA presentation](#) has been made public during a SFERA workshop at the SolarPACES International Conference, 21-24 September 2010.
- The [SFERA brochure](#) has been released in September 2010 and is now available on the website.
- The [SFERA poster is now available for download](#) on the website. This general poster, like the brochure, gives you a brief description of the aims and activities of SFERA.

Should you wish to know more about these activities, please contact [marie.prouteau@promes.cnrs.fr](mailto:marie.prouteau@promes.cnrs.fr)

**Transnational Access** activities aim at opening the doors of the most relevant CSP R&D infrastructures to interested users, optimizing the use of the facilities and creating critical mass for new research initiatives.

The SFERA Partners: **CIEMAT**, **CNRS**, **PSI**, **WEIZMANN** and **ENEA** are providing **free access to their high-flux solar research facilities**, unique in Europe and in the world. For more information on the possible research opportunities, please click [here](#). The 2010 Access Campaign has been a success with more than 37 project proposals submitted. Go and have a look at [the list of selected projects](#) for 2010.

### SFERA Free Access Conditions

SFERA Access 2011 campaign for projects proposals has been launched with the following timetable:

- **January 2011 to March 2011:** call for proposals. Check [conditions for application](#)
- **March and April 2011:** Selection of the projects to be hosted
- **May to October 2011:** Hosting of the projects in the different facilities

### SFERA User Proposal Forms

You can benefit from this **free access period** by submitting a project proposal to the SFERA Access Committee, as described [here](#). Moreover, please notice that all your personal expenses will be covered (travel, subsistence, accommodation).

**Don't miss the chance of such an opportunity and get more information by contacting [access-sfera@solab.eu](mailto:access-sfera@solab.eu)**

**Joint Research** activities aim at developing common standards and procedures for better consortium performance and development of advanced instrumentation and new RI thus improving the services offered to the user community.

SFERA Joint Research activities are **based on four pillars**:

- Improve the quality and service by the definition of joint testing standards and by the upgrade and harmonization of flux and temperature measurement tools ([more on Work Package 12](#))
- Establish the scientific / technological basis to upgrade infrastructure to ultra-high concentration using secondary concentrators ([more on Work Package 13](#))
- Enable facilities to perform accelerated aging experiments for life-time prediction of components ([more on Work Package 14](#))
- Develop joint approaches and measurement tools to test and evaluate thermal energy storage concepts ([more on Work Package 15](#))

**Should you wish to know more about these activities, please contact [contact-sfera@solab.eu](mailto:contact-sfera@solab.eu)**

### SFERA Partners

*CIEMAT-Plataforma Solar de Almeria (Spain)*  
*DLR (Germany)*  
*PROMES-CNRS (France)*

*PSI (Switzerland)*  
*ETH (Switzerland)*  
*Weizmann (Israel)*

*ENEA (Italy)*  
*DIN (Germany)*  
*UPS (France)*

*AUNERGY (Spain)*  
*CEA-LITEN (France)*  
*INESC-ID (Portugal)*