



First Global Economic Survey Launched by IEA PVPS Task 2

An economic survey on total life-cycle costs of PV systems was recently launched by Task 2 of the IEA Photovoltaic Power Systems Programme (IEA PVPS). The survey's findings are intended to contribute to greater cost effectiveness in PV systems around the world. Readers are invited to participate in this first global economic survey of investment costs, maintenance costs, power production and overall performance of PV installations. The new economic survey can be found at: <http://www.iea-pvps-task2.org>. - click on "Survey" to access the economic survey and to become a participant in this global study.

As PV generation becomes an increasingly significant part of energy supply, demand grows within the PV community for economic data for all key PV system components and information on real-life costs for system maintenance. Information gathered by the new global total life-cycle survey will be examined by IEA PVPS Task 2 experts from 12 countries. Through analysis and comparison of learning curves for economic progress and performance it will be possible to identify and evaluate the key contributors to life-cycle economic performance. While the source and content of individual inputs will remain confidential, summaries of the results by country or area will be made available to participants and posted on the [IEA PVPS Web site](#).

An existing PVPS Task 2 international PV Performance Database has already gathered data on more than 400 PV systems, providing long-term datasets facilitating analysis and comparison of PV systems in different regions of the world. This database has been distributed to more than 3400 registered users in 90 countries.

The overall focus of Task 2 of IEA PVPS is *Performance, Reliability and Analysis of Photovoltaic Systems*. Its objective is to improve the operation and sizing of photovoltaic power systems and subsystems, as well as electrical and economic output, by collecting, analysing and disseminating information on their performance and reliability and using this information as the basis for assessments and practical recommendations.

This Task fulfils a vital role for the future of PV systems in energy supply. While it is good to know that installed PV capacity is growing on a global scale, these systems will make a real contribution to sustainable energy supply only if they deliver good technical and economic performance. During the past years, Task 2 has analysed and assessed the operational performance and quality of PV installations and published the results in various documents at national and international levels. Reports, papers and reviews are available from the PVPS Task 2 website at: <http://www.iea-pvps-task2.org>.