

# Polymeric Materials for Solar Thermal Applications

2006 - 2014

Dr. Michael Köhl  
Operating Agent

Fraunhofer ISE  
Freiburg, Germany  
michael.koehl@ise.  
fraunhofer.de

Dr. Michaela Meir  
Subtask Leader B

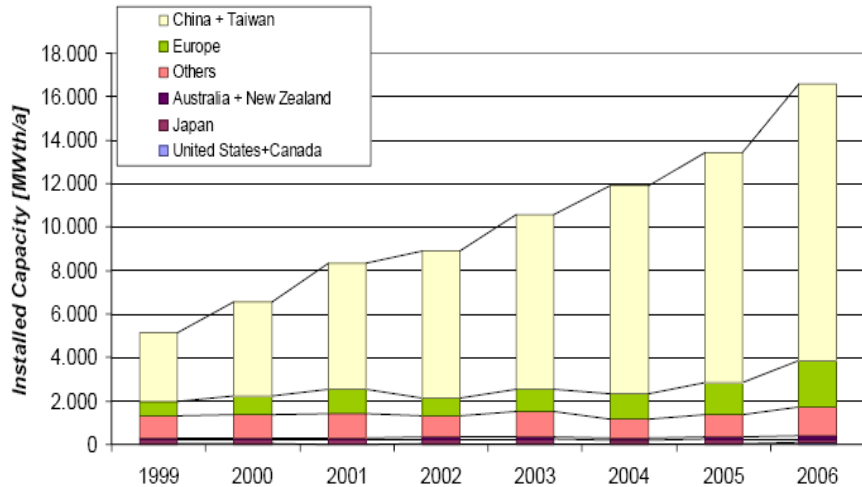
University of Oslo  
Oslo, Norway  
mmeir@fys.uio.no

Dr. Stephan Fischer  
Subtask Leader B

University of Stuttgart  
Stuttgart, Germany  
fischer@itw.uni-  
stuttgart.de

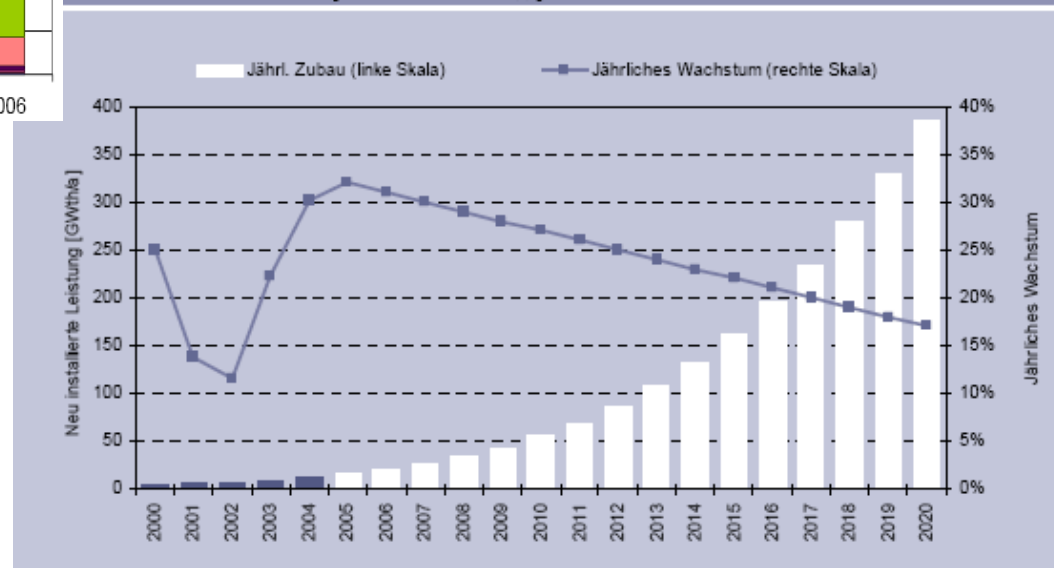
Prof. Dr. Gernot M. Wallner  
Subtask Leader C

Johannes Kepler University  
Linz, Austria  
gernot.wallner@jku.at



**20% Annual growth:  
390 GW ~ 560 Mm<sup>2</sup> in 2020**

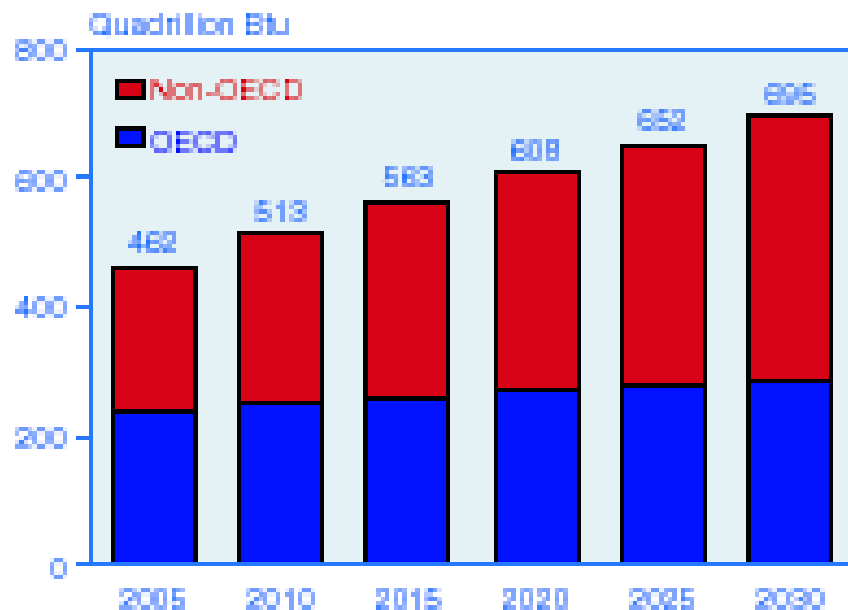
Abbildung 24: Sarasin-Prognose des weltweiten Solarkollektoren-Marktes. Neu installierte Kollektorkapazität in GW<sub>th</sub> pro Jahr



Quelle: Sarasin, 2005

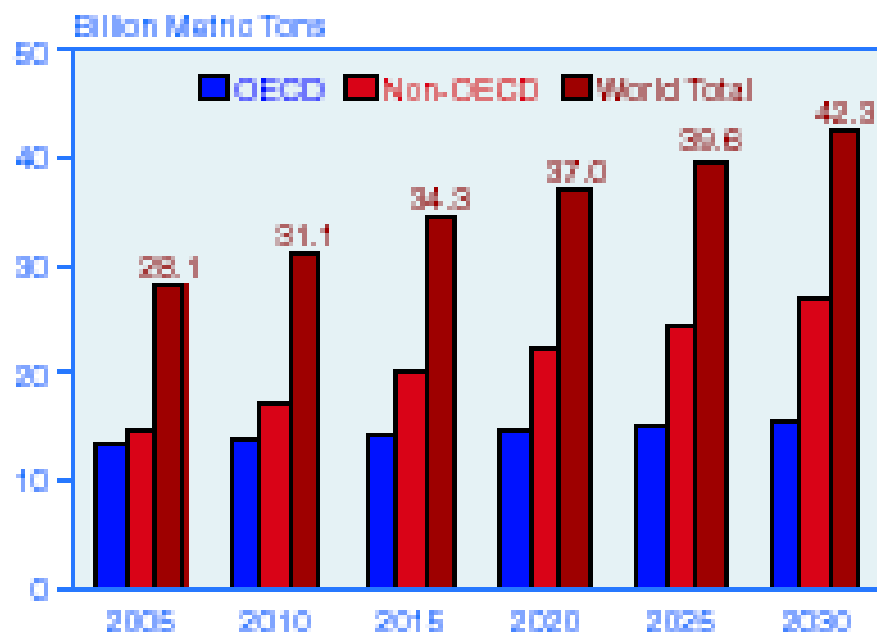
**How to provide the raw materials?**

Figure 1. World Marketed Energy Consumption, 2005-2030

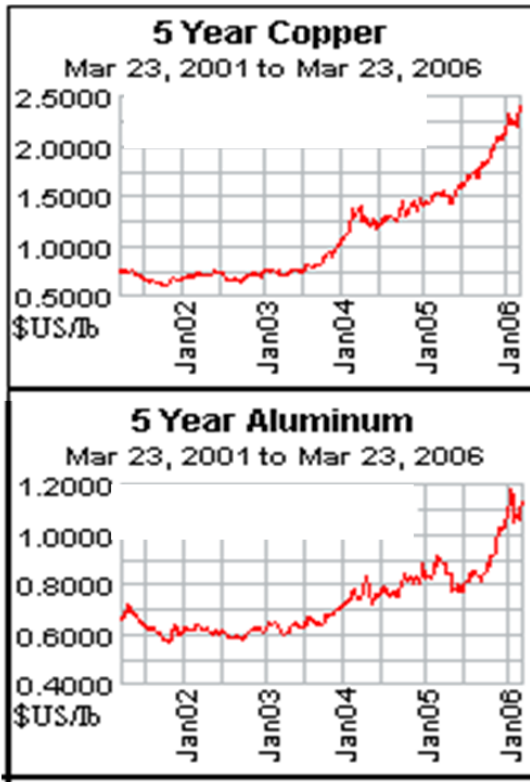


Sources: 2005: Energy Information Administration (EIA), *International Energy Annual 2005* (June-October 2007), web site [www.eia.doe.gov/iea](http://www.eia.doe.gov/iea). Projections: EIA, *World Energy Projections Plus* (2008).

Figure 8. World Carbon Dioxide Emissions, 2005-2030



Source: Energy Information Administration, *World Energy Projections Plus* (2008).



cost (eur/m <sup>2</sup> )	metal	plastics	savings	savings%
<b>Materials</b>				
absorber	38	22	16	42%
transp cover	23	14	9	39%
casing	6	4	2	33%
sealing	3	3	0	0%
insulation	2	2	0	0%
other	4	4	0	0%
<b>Material total</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>36%</b>
<b>labor</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>40%</b>
<b>Total production</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>36%</b>
<b>overhead</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>
<b>Panel cost</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>23%</b>
<b>Installation</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>30%</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>241</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>26%</b>

- Assessment of the **applicability** and the **cost reduction potential of polymeric materials** for solar thermal systems
- Novel polymer based **designs**
- Evaluation of **less expensive materials**
- Assessment of **durability** and **reliability**
- Promote increased **confidence** in the use of these products
- Development and application of appropriate **testing and certification methods**
- Identification of **less expensive manufacturing** processes

# Collector components

## 2-Component Extruded Trough

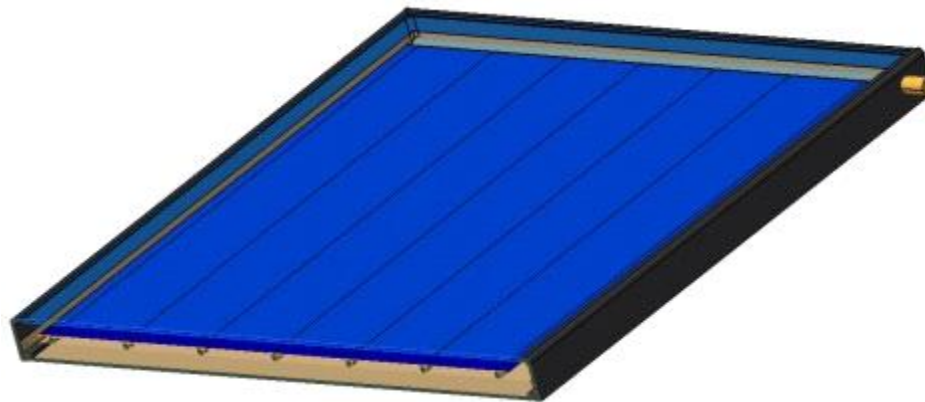
### Assembly Process

- Absorber and thermal insulation inserted into collector trough
- Back plate bonded to collector trough

Absorber

Thermal Insulation

Back Plate

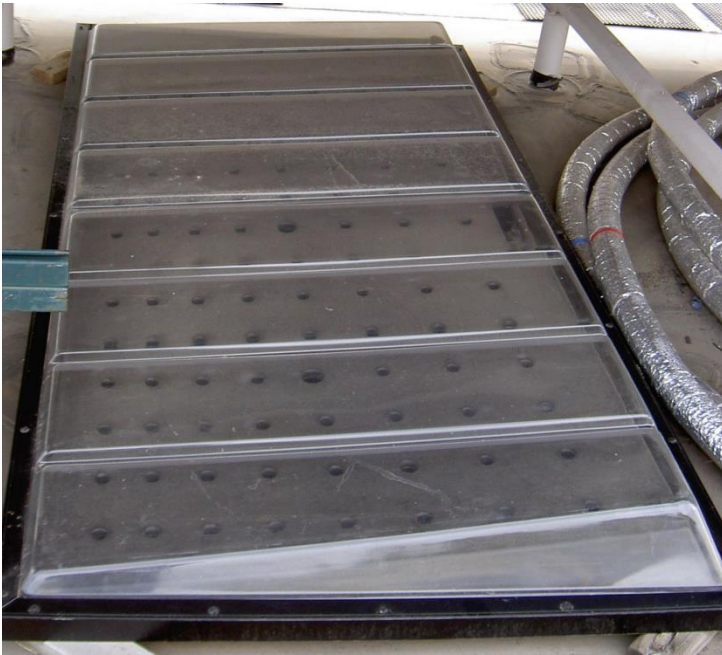


### Material Selection (example)

- glazing of collector trough: transparent PA
- structure of collector trough: PA coloured
- back plate: PA coloured



# Integrated storage collectors



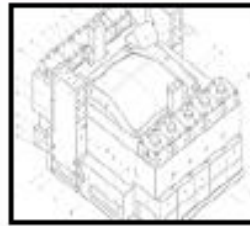
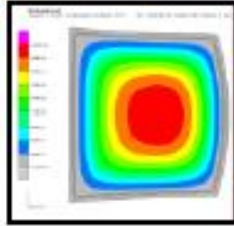
Concept

Part Design

Mold Design

Processing

Application



Design-Concept

Creation of suitable materials

Processing Development

Coating application

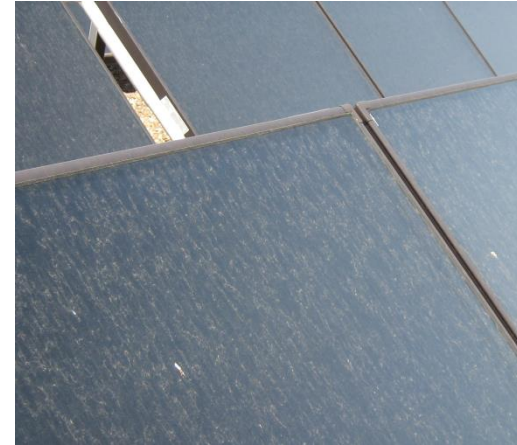


thermotropic polymeric materials allowing for temperature control of a collector

thickness insensitive spectrally selective paints (TISS) and glazing with self-cleaning properties

adhesion of functional polymeric materials to polymeric substrates

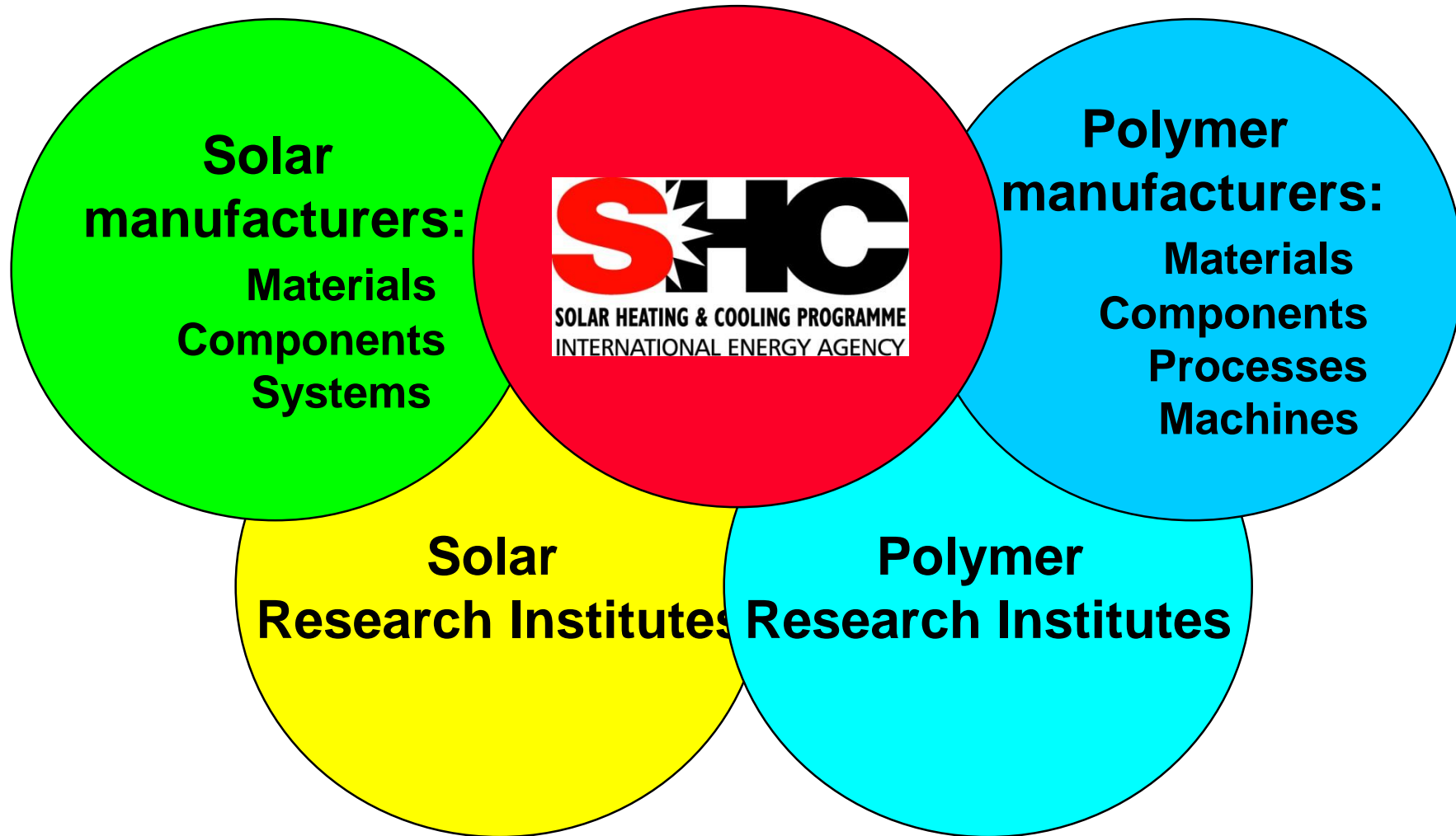
ageing behaviour of functional polymeric layers and glazing under service relevant loading and environmental conditions





# Building integration





# Subtask division



## SUBTASK A

- Information
- Dr. Michaela Meir
- Norway



## SUBTASK B

- Collectors
- Dr. Stephan Fischer
- Germany



## SUBTASK C

- Materials
- Prof. Dr. mont. Gernot Wallner
- Austria

OPERATING AGENT: Dr. Michael Köhl, FhG ISE, Germany

# Subtask A:

State of the art: **Polymeric materials in solar thermal applications**

Taskforce on **total cost accounting approach (incl. LCA)**

Taskforce on **standards, regulations and guidelines**

Database of **successful architectural integration**

**Dissemination of information**



## Subtask A:

Polymeric materials for solar  
thermal collectors –  
Market overview and life cycle study

Dr. Michaela Meir  
NORWAY



# Subtask B:

Design of polymer-friendly systems  
pressure-less  
drain-back  
thermosiphon

Development of polymeric collectors  
building integrated  
overheating-control

Design of polymeric absorbers

## Subtask B:

Requirements for polymeric based collectors and components, and examples for developed products

Dr. Stephan Fischer

GERMANY



## Subtask C:

# Tailor-made polymeric materials for collectors and heat storages

Prof. Dr. mont. Gernot M. Wallner

AUSTRIA



# Subtask C:

Development of Multi-Functional Polymeric Materials

Processing and Evaluation of Components and Functional Coatings

Methods for Testing and Characterization of Polymeric Materials



## Subtask A:

Polymeric materials for solar  
thermal collectors –  
Market overview and life cycle study

Dr. Michaela Meir  
NORWAY