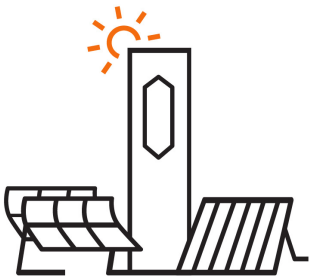
Mandate for Implementation Working Group on Solar Thermal Technologies

Adopted by the Steering Group on

18 February 2026



The IWG Solar Thermal Technologies (STT) is established by the SET Plan Steering Group (SG) to support the implementation of the SET Plan in this technology area. The scope of the working group covers all solar thermal technologies—both concentrated and non-concentrated—and the full range of their market applications. These technologies harness solar energy to generate thermal energy, which can be used directly as heat or converted into other forms of energy, such as power, cooling or fuels. The IWG aims to strengthen research and innovation (R&I) cooperation and coordination among SET Plan countries and the EU, while also fostering political support, to advance solar thermal technologies as key renewable energy solutions contributing to the energy transition and the EU's objectives of climate neutrality, energy security, and technology sovereignty. It works under the supervision of the SG to whom it reports regularly. To carry out its tasks, the IWG will benefit from the expertise, support and tools provided by the Commission (e.g. Joint Secretariats (CSAs), the SET Plan information system - SETIS, the Clean Energy Technology Observatory project, the Competitiveness Progress Report, workshops, events etc.).

The IWG oversees the development of a 'Common Implementation and Investment Plan' (CIIP). The CIIP consists of a 1) Thematic Vision (TV), a 2) Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA), and 3) the Implementation and Investment Commitments (IIC). The previous Implementation Plans and SRIAs may act as a source of inspiration and content for this exercise. In this context, the IWG shall:

1. Develop a **Thematic Vision for the technology area of Solar Thermal Technologies**, establishing ambitious and achievable short-term (up to 2030), medium-term (up to 2040), and long-term (up to 2050) goals on the development, manufacturing and market uptake of this technology in Europe.

The IWG will develop this Vision in close collaboration with European industry and research stakeholders notably, but not exclusively, with the European Solar Thermal Electricity Association (ESTELA), Solar Heat Europe (SHE[1]), EU-SOLARIS ERIC, and EERA- JP Concentrated Solar Power by 15th May 2026. It shall be based on solid evidence and foresight, and outline short-, medium- and long-term goals. The goals may include corresponding targets where relevant, such as but not limited to technological performance, maturity and progress to commercialisation; manufacturing capacity in Europe; intellectual property metrics; and emissions reductions.

The resulting Thematic Vision will be submitted to the SG for discussion and endorsement. The SG can identify if additional evidence or analysis is required.

2. Oversee the stakeholder community's development of a European **Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA)** which aims to achieve the vision.

The IWG will entrust the development or update of a SRIA to industry and research stakeholders, represented by ESTELA, SHE, EU-SOLARIS ERIC and EERA-JP Concentrated Solar Power by 15th October 2026. The SRIA shall identify the specific R&I priorities and activities, corresponding KPIs and the level of funding needed in Europe to achieve the Thematic Vision's goals. Where appropriate, the SRIA should also include recommendations on enabling framework conditions for manufacturing and

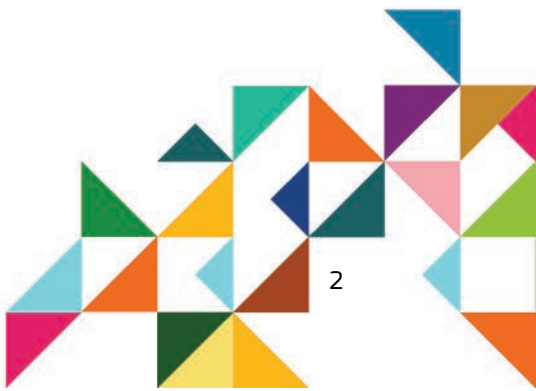
[1] SHE manages the European Solar Thermal Technology Platform (ESTTP) within the Renewable Heating and Cooling ETIP

market uptake (e.g. regulatory, fiscal, standardization) that should accompany and help realize the Thematic Vision's goals. This process may benefit from the input of the CETPartnership, Driving Urban Transitions Partnership, the European Energy Research Alliance, etc.

The resulting SRIA shall be well-aligned with the Thematic Vision and submitted to the SG for discussion and endorsement. The SG can identify if additional evidence or analysis is required.

3. Identify and collect **Implementation and Investment Commitments (IICs)** based on national and EU priorities.

The IWG will organise and steer discussion among all relevant actors (EC, MS, industry, research organizations, academia) on how to best implement the endorsed SRIA by Q1 2027 or sooner. It will aim to build the broadest possible consensus on a common implementation approach (e.g., priorities, timing, resources) and will facilitate agreement on the allocation of efforts between public and private actors and identify their respective investment R&I commitments.

Monitoring and reporting on the progress of the **Common Implementation and Investment Plans (CIIP).**

The CIIP shall include a description of indicators for monitoring progress and identifying bottlenecks. This exercise will be based on the guidance devised by the Commission to ensure a level of comparability across the working groups. The IWG will then annually assess the progress made in the implementation of the CIIP by the different actors via the harmonised annual SETIS exercise. The Steering Group and the European Commission can identify potential gaps, lagging areas, and new/emerging issues in order to suggest a revision of the CIIP.