

Collectors: current state of technology

An absorber, a frame, a glass pane: the basic components of a solar collector are quickly listed. However, there are various ways in which these components can be combined to make a functioning solar collector. 61 manufacturers of flat-plate collectors present their approach in the S&WE survey on

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Photo: CD Solar

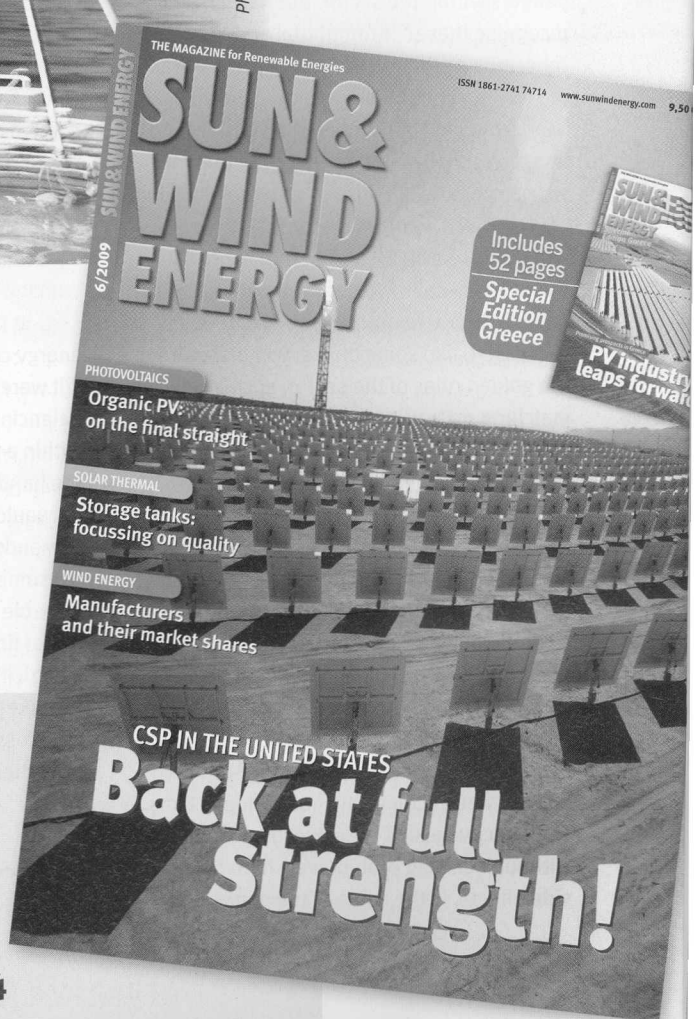


Photo: Ostram

Off-grid: little noticed markets are developing

Off-grid photovoltaics have a limited market in Central Europe – mainly in the recreational and transport sectors. The best outlook for such applications is in rural areas of the world far removed from the grid. In these far-flung locations, there is more work to do in off-grid applications.

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CSP in the US: poised for growth

Utilities needing to meet Renewable Portfolio Standards (RPS) in 27 US states, federal support for solar energy expected in the near future and the new administration's sense of urgency about combating climate change revive the CSP industry in the US.

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Photo: Brightsource

Pellets instead of coal

The power generation market for industrial pellets is developing rapidly in Europe – with a 30 % growth between 2007 and 2008 alone. And the large-scale power plants in the Benelux and Scandinavian countries will continue to grow considerably in the next few years. However, is this growth healthy?

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Photo: Gavin Young, E.ON UK

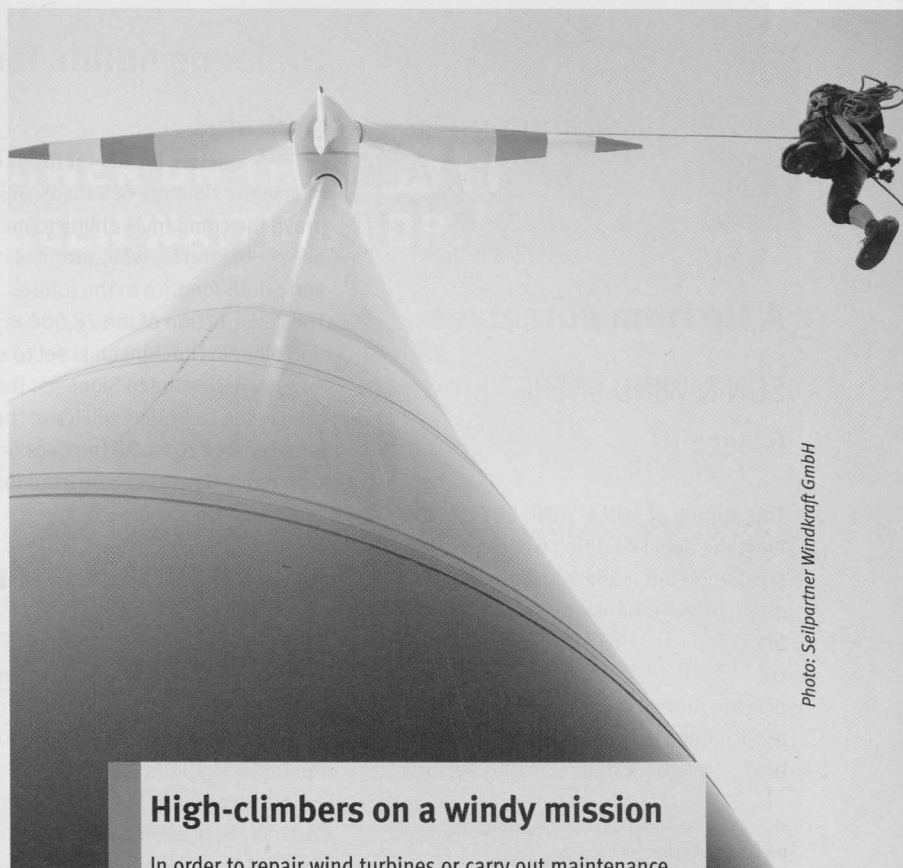


Photo: Seilpartner Windkraft GmbH

High-climbers on a windy mission

In order to repair wind turbines or carry out maintenance, it is necessary to work at great heights. Professional abseilers take on these daring tasks.

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Photo: Konarka

Organic PV: on the final straight?

It is hoped that organic photovoltaics will be able to do what the classical silicon-based solar cells so far haven't achieved: generate electricity from solar energy at a competitive price.

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