

## Solar Rating & Certification

### Interview with Jan Erik Nielsen



The IEA SHC Programme wrapped up its work on Solar Rating & Certification (Task 43) in 2015, and in 2016 started a new Task on Solar Standards and Certification (Task 57). To get a better understanding of the impact of Task 43, we asked Jan Erik Nielsen, the Operating Agent, a few questions.

#### **Solar Update (SU): Why was this work needed?**

**Jan Erik Nielsen (JEN):** Task 43: Solar Rating & Certification was initiated to address some of the challenges facing solar thermal – new market entry costs for industry, promotion of quality products, support of ISO TC 180 work, and forum for exchanging experiences..

#### **SU: What were the benefits of doing it thru IEA SHC?**

**JEN:** The IEA SHC provided a good network for experts.

#### **SU: What, if any, result surprised you?**

**JEN:** It proved to be not so easy to convince certification bodies to participate in a common certification scheme.

#### **SU: What is the most important deliverable of the Task and why?**

**JEN:** There are two. The first is the establishment of the Global Solar Certification Network. The second is the new ISO/EN collector test standard that has now been approved.

#### **SU: Do you have a success story about a Task deliverable being used by an end-user/industry?**

**JEN:** Yes, the new standard, ISO 9806: Solar Energy - Solar Thermal Collectors - Test Methods, for solar collectors is being used/adopted in more countries (and by more manufacturers).

#### **SU: How has your Task work supported capacity and skill building?**

**JEN:** No specific capacity building was done – but the exchange of experience with respect to how certification works around

the world has been very valuable for the participants.

#### **SU: Will we see more work in this area in IEA SHC?**

**JEN:** We already are! A follow-up Task started this year and the kick-off meeting was held in March in Berlin. IEA SHC member Countries and Sponsors are welcome.

#### **SU: Did the Task work on/support any standards?**

**JEN:** Yes indeed – especially collector test methods (new ISO 9806).

Visit the SHC Task 43 [webpage](#) to learn more and download reports, or contact Jan Erik Nielsen, [jen@solarkey.dk](mailto:jen@solarkey.dk).