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Kongress 2 - Oberflächennahe Geothermie
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The geothermal energy market in France – the 2020 industry overview

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The AFPG - the French Association of Geothermal Professionals – has updated its data on the French geothermal energy market in order to publish its Market Report. As for each issue of the report, the AFPG has gathered information from all its members – drilling companies, design offices, plants operators, ...

The aim of this presentation is to show the current state of the geothermal energy market in France, which is very contrasted when it comes to the different uses of geothermal energy. While the ground-source heat pumps market has sunk quite drastically within the last decade, stakeholders of the sectors are not completely resigned, as new reforms in terms of incentives could help reinvigorate the market. Furthermore, decentralized technologies such as geothermal loops at low-temperature have been developing at a steady pace and are already an essential component of the energy systems of new eco-neighborhoods.

In the sector of district heating, France has kept its leading position with many new projects since 2010 after a nearly 30-year period without activity. In particular, some plants built in the 70s now need to be revamped in order to continue delivering geothermal heat. This sector is also one with continuous innovations, such as the first sub-horizontal geothermal drilling in the world in Cachan in 2018.

In terms of electricity production, France has 16,7 GW of capacity installed as of 2019, with 2 power plants: Bouillante in the Guadeloupe island and Soultz-sous-Forêts in Alsace. These 2 plants are a great proof of the French know-how in this field, as they are located in very different geological regions: in a volcanic one for Bouillante, and in the Rhine Graben for Soultz. New projects are currently under study, but the future of this sector remains quite uncertain since it is conditioned by the ongoing energy program.

The presentation will be held by Ms. Virginie SCHMIDLÉ-BLOCH, Secretary General of the AFPG.