Pilote Benchmark 23-24 Mont-Soleil

Communauté de projet, Saint-Imier BE

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Benchmark Pilot 23-24 Mont-Soleil

"Mont-Soleil 2.0" - with transparency to sustainability in photovoltaics

On the 1'200 meter high Mont-Soleil, a worldwide unique pilot project is breaking new ground for the - in view of the current solar offensive - particularly important qualitative promotion of photovoltaics (PV). The aim is to create long-term transparency in the international PV market through neutral, scientifically based product information (benchmarks). The primary addressees are building owners, research and development, as well as the economy and the community.

An assessment of the PV market carried out in 2020/21 shows that there is a lack of comprehensive, neutral scientific product comparisons worldwide, which in particular analyze and publicize the quality, performance, energy yield, economic efficiency, ecology and longevity of the technically relevant PV modules in a fair and objective manner. This lack can lead to uncertainties and suboptimal decisions in the use of products and to quality problems, excessive space requirements and misallocation of funds.

In the years 2023 and 2024, a scientifically based pilot project with a tightly limited content, time and budget is to be carried out on Mont-Soleil to determine whether it is feasible to set up a neutral, long-term and internationally recognized PV benchmark plant. The promoters of the pilot project are the Mont-Soleil, Saint-Imier GMS (large-scale PV plant operated for R&D since 1992), the Bern University of Applied Sciences, Burgdorf BFH (scientific leader) and the Espace découverte Énergie, Saint-Imier EdE (cantonal energy competence center in the Bernese Jura). Various other partners will collaborate, first of all the EPFL (Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne/ Neuchâtel), the SUPSI (University of Applied Sciences Mendrisio, Ticino) and renowned national and international representatives of R&D as well as of federal and cantonal offices.

Depending on weather conditions (snow), the pilot project should be operational as far as possible by around the end of April 2023. The total costs are spread over all project contents and over the two years 2023 and 2024. They amount to a total of about CHF 350,000 and include extensive technical and scientific work. The decision on the long-term implementation of the benchmark project is to be made based on the experience of the pilot project from the end of 2024.