

Solar Keymark Newsletter - August 2010

Jan Erik Nielsen, Solar Keymark Network Secretary, 25th August 2010

www.solarkeymark.org

1. Status on certified products

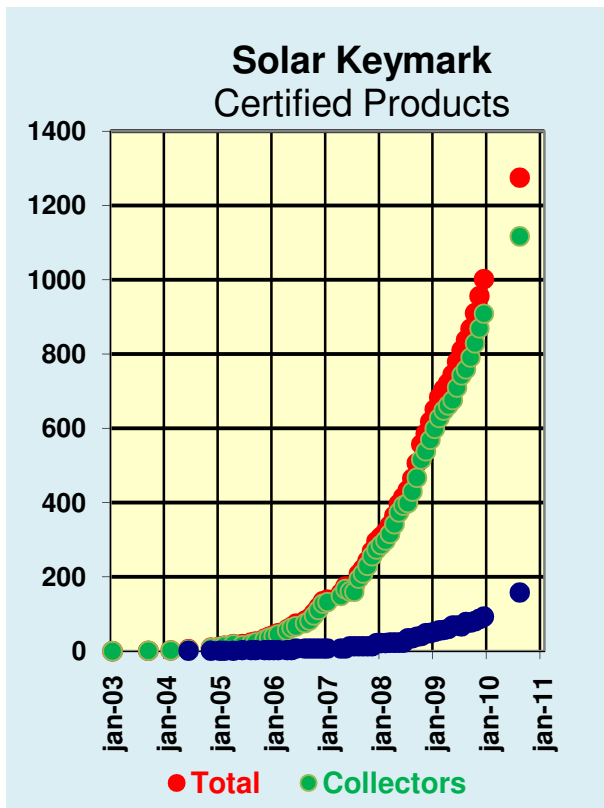


Fig.1. Solar Keymark certified products as per August 2010.

Solar Keymark is still developing fast. By 1st of August 2010 the number of Solar Keymark licences reached more than 1250; 1100 collector certificates and almost 150 system certificates. The development is shown in figure 1 and 2.

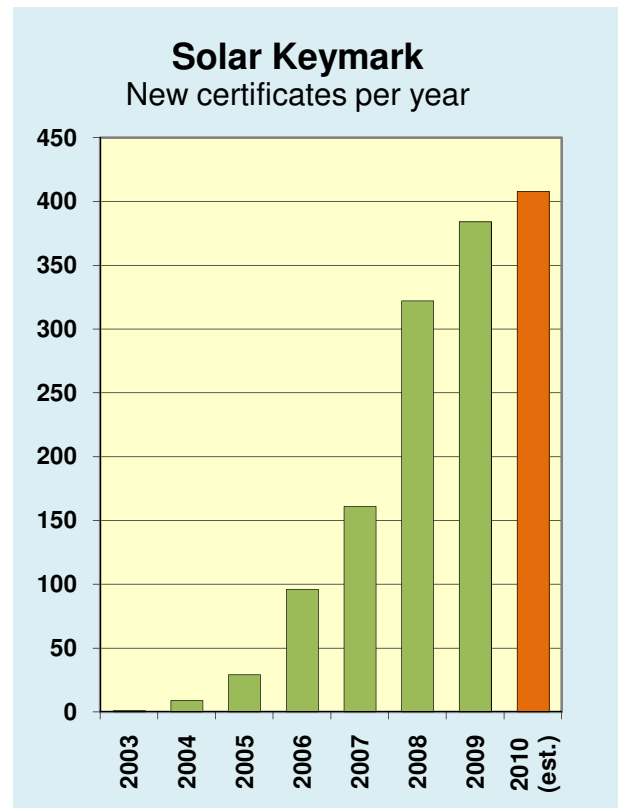


Fig.2. Solar Keymark certificates per year - at the moment approx. 34 new licences are issued per month in average.

Expectations for 2010 are to be more or less the same level as 2009 - more system certificates are expected due to [new flexibility](#).

2. Status on “Solar Keymark operators”

- Empowered certification bodies: 8
- Accredited test labs: 19

3. Flexible certification

It is a key issue for the Solar Keymark Network to make the certification of products as smooth and flexible as possible (with offering the credibility).

The flexible “system family” testing and certifications described in the last newsletter is now being implemented and ongoing (already now there is a tendency towards more system certification - see fig. 1).

Another flexibility introduced for systems is the possibility to exchange the collector type used in the system - some of the main requirements for such exchange are basically:

- Solar Keymark on collector
- “Performance” of the new collector between 0 and 10 % better than the old one

Also with respect to collectors some flexibility has been introduced:

Collector family:

- If the “same” collector comes in different sizes, only the biggest collector has to be tested completely and the smallest partly.

Collector sub-components:

- Absorber coating: A list of exchangeable absorber coatings has been made - and is steadily growing - tests of absorber characteristics are necessary
- Collector glazing: Also collector glazing can be exchanged based on tests of glazing characteristics and in some cases some mechanical collector tests
- Collector insulation: A working group is preparing requirements for exchange of collector insulation

Flexibility in the collector sub components gives the manufacturers the possibility to have more than one sub contractor for each of the collector components.

4. New Solar Keymark Foundation

As mentioned in the last newsletter (January 2010) an annual sum of approx. 100 000 € is expected to be available for Solar Keymark related activities/projects through the “*Solar Keymark Foundation*”.

Foundation management and rules will most probably be in place during 2010.

Shortly after these decisions, a call for “Solar Keymark Projects” will be announced at the Solar Keymark web.

5. Solar Keymark Network

The Solar Keymark Network is the operative framework around Solar Keymark. It consists of the Solar Keymark operators (certification bodies, test labs and inspectors) and industry representatives. The Solar Keymark Network meets twice a year. Next meeting is in Graz, 7-8 October, 2010.

More information on the Solar Keymark Network at:

- <http://www.estif.org/solarkeymark/network.php>
- or from the secretary,
- Jan Erik Nielsen: [jen\(at\)solarkey.dk](mailto:jen(at)solarkey.dk)

6. European project: QAISt

The European project “Quality Assurance in Solar Thermal” (QAISt) deals with developing and maintaining the European Standards and other quality measures. The Solar Keymark Network supports these activities - and the QAISt promotes the Solar Keymark. More information on QAISt:

www.qaist.eu