

## Company profile

SolarKey Int. is an independent consulting company working at international expert level in the professional solar thermal sector.

SolarKey Int. has specialised in the fields of:

- Testing
- Standardisation
- Certification
- System design and optimization
- Product development
- Project applications
- Project management
- International market situation

The company was established in the beginning of 2003 by Jan Erik Nielsen. J.E. Nielsen is M.Sc. in mechanical engineering and has more than 20 years of experience at expert level in the field of solar thermal. From 1981 he has been working at the Danish Technical University (3 years) and at the Danish Technological Institute (18 years). From 1999-2003 as manager of the National Danish Test Laboratory at the Danish Technological Institute, having the overall responsibility for testing and certification.

The company is a one-man independent company. The small no. of people in the company is balanced by an extensive network amongst the solar thermal key actors in EU, including all major European solar thermal test labs and the major companies.

J.E. Nielsen has been very active in the international standardisation work for many years:

- ISO TC180/SC4: Co-author of: Draft for DP 9459 Part 3: Procedures for system component characterization and prediction of yearly performance using component performance data”, October 1988.
- Member of CEC Collector and Systems Testing Group – the ”pioneer group” creating the basis for the European Standards. The work of the group is described in ”Recommendations for Performance and Durability Tests of Solar Collectors and Water Heating Systems”, ISPRA, Italy, May 1989.
- CEN TC312: Delegate to the TC312 and member of all TC312 work groups, active in developing all new European Standards: EN12975-1,2; EN12976-1,2, ENV12977-1,2,3. These standards were published in 2000-2001. At the moment involved in the first revision of these standards and convenor of the CEN TC312 task group for developing a common European calculation model related to the European Directive on Energy performance of Buildings.
- “Father” of the Solar Keymark<sup>1</sup>. J.E. Nielsen initiated in 1999 together with the European Solar Industry Federation the work on a common European certification scheme for solar thermal

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<sup>1</sup> Solar Keymark is the official CEN certification scheme stating conformity with the European standards for solar thermal products - more info on Solar Keymark: [www.solarkeymark.org](http://www.solarkeymark.org).

products. The Solar Keymark scheme was approved by the CEN Certification Board in January 2003 and is now being implemented throughout Europe.

- Co-ordinator of the “Network of European Solar Thermal Test Labs” created during the process of establishing the Solar Keymark. The network is used for exchange of experiences amongst European test labs in the field and for development of new European projects<sup>2</sup>.
- Technical consultant to the European Solar Thermal Industry Federation, ESTIF, including standardisation issues. ESTIF has a liaison with CEN TC 312 and J.E. Nielsen is ESTIF delegate to the TC 312.

## Company facts:

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Established	2003
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<sup>2</sup> Right now the EU/6FP “New Generation of Solar Thermal Systems, NEGST” is running. J.E. Nielsen is task leader of WP4: “Towards the next generation of standards”