

## CONFERENCE ON SPACE AND RENEWABLE ENERGY

Sarriguren (Navarra), March 30, 2011 .- "Renewable Energies and Space: Looking for Synergies" is the name of the conference which was held today at the **National Renewable Energy Centre (CENER)** in Sarriguren, with the aim of identifying the renewable energy needs that can be covered by the **European Space Agency (ESA)**, in the context of grand scale implementation. In addition, the funding opportunities offered by ESA as part of the IAP program to develop new services and space based applications have been presented.

The conference was organized by ESA in collaboration with CENER in their role as the new Ambassador of the European Space Agency and was aimed primarily at technical experts from companies, institutions and technology centres.

In the context of climate change mitigation and inline with the strategy of reducing energy dependence, renewable energies have become a priority worldwide. In this environment, Europe has adopted ambitious targets for the next decade (the so-called 2020 targets or 20 for 2020) and a Strategic Energy Technology Plan (SET-Plan) which is based on the intensive use of renewable energies. The challenges for renewable energies are to be among the main sources of the energy mix and to reduce costs and large-scale installations and network integration. Space technologies can play a key role from the standpoint of infrastructure and new services in solutions that facilitate large-scale integration of renewables into the grid.

ESA's new IAP program provides funds for studies and projects to identify and develop new services that may be provided by ESA.

The opening ceremony of the conference held today was attended by the Minister for Innovation, Business and Employment of the Government of Navarra, José María Roig, the Spanish delegate for ESA and the CDTI technical expert, Andrea Pérez-Carro and the Head of the Department of Integration and Telecommunications Applications from ESA, Professor Amnon Ginati.

The speakers included representatives from the major renewable energy international energy associations, including EWEA (European Wind Energy Association), EPIA (European Photovoltaic Industry Association), ESTELA SOLAR, and AEBIOM (European Biomass Energy Association).