Has proposed India's first ever national consortium on solar thermal energy

IIT-B turns to the sun for power

Mihika Basu

Given the huge gap between the demand
and supply of electricity in India, Indi-
an Institute of Technology (IIT)-Bom-
bay wants to create a national resource
centre for solar thermal power genera-tion.

"Nearly 50 per cent of households in
India do not have electricity It is esti-mated that 10,00,000 MW of power will have to be added in the next 10 years. One option worth looking at is solar thermal power," said Rangan Banerjee, head, Department of Energy Science and Engineering (DESE), IIT-Bombay.
IIT-Bombay now proposes to build
solar thermal power plants in India in a demonstration-cum-research facility, which would help in developing indigenous capability and serve as a national resource centre and testing facility.
The idea is to build the country's first
consortium of industries and research organisations in this area.

"We intend to have a high-visibility,
national impact research programme. The US and Europe have already built

such consortiums, but it will be a first in India," said Banerjee.
As a first step, DESE organised a
workshop on Monday to discuss details and identify consortium partners. The workshop, sponsored by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, also re-viewed the status of various solar ther-mal power routes in the Indian context. Three approaches were decided upon — medium temperature power genera-tion, high temperature solar tower con-cept and distributed (smaller range) power generation.
While IIT-Bombay is likely to take the
lead in medium temperature power gen-eration, it will facilitate the other two.
The Maharashtra Energy Development Agency has also committed to support the venture and will provide the land in Maharashtra, said Banerjee.
A detailed techno-economic proposal
focussing on aspects like prototype, R&D and technological goals, will be prepared by the institute within six months.

<title>IIT-B turns to the sun for power</title>
<author>Mihika Basu</author>

<keywords>TS1-H</keywords>
<publication>DNA</publication>
<pubDate>29/04/2008</pubDate>
<description>IIT-Bombay now proposes to build solar thermal power plants in India in a
demonstration-cum-research facility, which would help in developing indigenous
capability and serve as a national resource centre and testing facility.</description>
<classif>C33</classif>
<entrydt>08/05/2008</entrydt>
<sd>VD</sd>