

# Growing markets worldwide

Thermosiphon systems for solar-powered water heating are in demand. The turnover expectations of the manufacturers were far exceeded last year.

## 2006

was a good year. The manufacturers of solar thermosiphon water heating systems were able to boost their turnovers significantly. In December 2006, Sun & Wind Energy contacted over 70 companies worldwide to ask their opinions on market developments. Of these, 37 replied to the survey. Their average turnover growth in 2006 was 42%. The individual figures were spread over a very wide range, namely between 10 and 150% (Fig. 1), but if we discount the outliers at the two ends of the scale, the majority were concentrated around a plus of 20 to 40%. The development was thus considerably ahead of what the companies had been expecting. After all, a similar SBIWE survey a year ago indicated that they were reckoning with an average growth of 23% – though we must of course keep in mind, that the participating companies did differ slightly between the two surveys. In 2005, the manufacturers had returned an average growth of just 21%.

There were no clear-cut regional differences noted last year. For example, Turkish suppliers will be found both at the very top of the rankings and lower medium range. Even so, certain trends can be discerned: The Austrian and Chinese companies are strong at the moment. Business in Greece, on the other hand, is rather quiet. Most companies are looking forward to a similarly positive development this year. Above-average expectations were expressed in Austria and also the Italian manufacturers. The Turkish and Chinese markets are also very optimistic.

### China dominates the world market

It is not really surprising that the Greek companies lagging behind in terms of growth, because the domestic market on their side of the Aegean is stagnating. According to studies conducted by the Swiss Bank & Cie AG [1], a collector capacity of 151 MW<sub>th</sub> was installed in 2004, to be followed by a similar figure,



Thermosiphon systems in housing construction  
Photo: J. Ziegler