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FME SOLAR Newsletter #3

FME SOLAR is well on its way with the work in 2025, and we're excited to share information of our plans for upcoming webinars, workshops, and work plan meetings! You'll also find a list of master's theses completed before summer — highlighting some impressive student work.

[Go to our website](#)

From the centre director

This summer brought more than an unusually sunny vacation for those who spent their vacations in the southern parts of Norway. This vacation was very welcome: you need to be well rested if you plan to spend too much time on the solarcoaster, as our industry is sometimes called.



On the very positive side this summer, we saw an important barrier broken. In the month of June, solar (PV) power plants were for the first time ever responsible for the largest share of all power production in the EU, with a market share of 22%. New installations continue at a rapid pace, strongly supported by policies and regulations. Therefore, this will be the new norm for more and more months in the years to come. Indeed, if the pace of new PV capacity additions around the world continues, PV power plants will be the largest source of electricity not only in the EU, but globally within relatively few years. This is very good news, both for the inhabitants of this fragile planet and for our research centre FME SOLAR. Many of our partners are making important contributions supporting the growing global market.

At the same time, the pace of installations of new PV power plants in Norway is declining rapidly, putting developers and installers under increasingly extreme pressure. After close to two years of decline, several companies have had to shut down operations, others have

been forced to let good colleagues go. This dramatic situation is starkly contrasted by the stated ambition in Norway to reach 8 TWh of domestic PV power production already by 2030. This ambition is getting increasingly hard to reach. Today, we still have competent installers with the capacity to rapidly install high quality PV power plants at low costs. If more are forced out of business, it will become increasingly hard to find the installers needed when the tides turn. It will be all too exciting to see the outcome of this year's election and whether the winners will be able to get this industry back on track.

We in FME SOLAR do our best to contribute to the growth of PV installations in Norway and abroad, and to the development of the supporting industry. In this newsletter, you will learn more about some of the results from our work so far. One highlight is our first batch of MSc students. You will also find more information about upcoming events in FME SOLAR. We are particularly happy to continue our good collaboration with Renewables Norway and FME BATTERY on a webinar series covering the exciting and rapidly developing world of PV + storage. With increasing deployment of PV power plants, battery storage is becoming crucial for both profitable operation and security of supply. We are also starting the process of developing plans for next year's activity, a process where we want to involve all our partners.

I look very much forward to our collaboration this fall!

Webinars



We will continue with a new series of webinars this fall - our current list includes O&M for utility scale parks, degradation of FPV systems, snow impact and the launch of the FME SOLAR PV Technology Roadmap. In addition, the webinar series on PV and batteries in collaboration with Renewables Norway and FME BATTERY will also continue, so there will be many webinars to look forward to! FME SOLAR webinars will typically be held on Tuesdays at 12:15. Sign-ups for these will come in later newsletters, whereas you can sign up for the first PV/Battery webinar below.

If you missed a previous webinar, recordings are available to all FME SOLAR partners on the FME SOLAR Teams site, in the channel "seminars and conferences".

Business models for PV + BESS - International experience

Friday September 19th, 2025, 09:00 - 10:00, Teams

Welcome to this fall's first webinar in the PV + BESS series, hosted by FME BATTERY, FME SOLAR and Fornybar Norge! In this webinar we will learn how batteries can support load balancing, frequency regulation and the capacity market.

Program:

09:00 Welcome and Introductions: Hanne Flåten Andersen (FME BATTERY), Erik Marstein (FME SOLAR) and Trine Berentsen (Fornybar Norge)

09:10 The Kenhardt PV + BESS power plant: Terje Melaa, Scatec

09:30 Business models for BESS - experience from BESS operation in the Irish market: Rory Griffin, Statkraft

09:50 Q & A

Remember to sign up by Thursday, **September 18th** !

[Sign up here](#)

Workshops

Whereas webinars are for dissemination of completed work, workshops indicate where we are at the moment - with the intent of guiding where we are going in the future. In other words - these workshops are great for placing your mark on the research in the future! Please note that the workshops are only for FME SOLAR members.



PV production modelling in Nordic conditions.

September 16th, 2025, 09:00 - 13:00, IFE/Kjeller or Teams

In this workshop, we aim to establish the current state of the art, identify the needs of the user partners and highlight areas requiring further research. The workshop will include an overview of existing and ongoing research, relevant findings from the user partner questionnaire, presentations by user partners on their experiences, and discussions on the way forward.

After the workshop, the research partners will continue with an internal WP2 meeting from 13:00 - 15:30.

Remember to **sign up by September 10th**.

[Sign up here](#)

Work plan process for 2026

With 2025 well on its way, it's already time to think about where we need to go in 2026. Every year, the centre management team in FME SOLAR, supported by all centre partners, develop the work plan for the following year. Here, concrete plans covering what research to perform and which deliverables to produce are given.



Work Plan and Budget 2026

The plan will be developed in the coming months. In this context we really want to hear from our partners. First of all, you will be invited to dedicated work package meetings where the plan is discussed. Moreover, if you have topics for study or case studies that you see as interesting to include in the work plan for 2026, please contact the centre management. In October, there will be hybrid work package meetings for all work packages, where the tentative plans will be presented. Here, all FME SOLAR partners will be asked to provide input and comments to the plan. The plans will then be further refined based on the input and sent to our advisory committee for science and innovation. After any changes to the plans based on feedback from these committees are made, the final work plan will be sent for approval by the FME SOLAR Executive Board on November 19th.

Master theses 2025

Several master students connected to FME SOLAR completed their thesis work, and graduated before the summer. Congratulations, all, on your great work! You can find a link to the theses below:

Martin Helge Johansen (UiA) \ **WP1** - [Enhancing PV Production Forecasts Incorporating Self- and External Shading Effects](#)

Magnus Randers Thorsen (NMBU) \ **WP1** - [Modellering og beregning av miljøforårsaket mismatchtap for solcellemoduler ved hjelp av strålesporingssimuleringer](#)

Tone Alsvik Finstad (NTNU) \ **WP2** - [Modeling of Temperature for Mono- and Bifacial Photovoltaics in Nordic Conditions](#)

Ine Erlandsen Grimsrud (NMBU) \ **WP3** - [Tilknytning på vilkår som fasilitator for kolokalisering av kraftproduksjon og kraftforbruk](#)

Jone Odden (NMBU) \ **WP3** - [Håndtering av spenningsvariasjoner forårsaket av solkraft i høyspente distribusjonsnett ved bruk av batterier og omformerstyring](#)

Maren Nærland and **Nina S. Moe** (UiA) \ **WP3** - [Impacts on Norwegian LV Distribution Grid from EU's Solar Rooftop Initiative](#)

Nils Enric Canut Taugbøl (UiO) \ **WP5** - [Modelling wave-induced losses on floating photovoltaic systems](#)

Nicolle Tello Díaz (UiO) \ **WP6** - [Copper based oxides for tandem solar cells](#)

You can also find a link to the theses on our website:

[Master thesis | FME SOLAR](#)

Master thesis 2026

Several students have already been in touch for topics relevant to FME SOLAR for 2026. If you have a case study or topic relevant for a master

student, do please contact the most relevant WP manager, which will notify the potential advisors. You can find an overview of the WPs here: [Research | FME SOLAR](#).

Have you published a paper? Do you have new, exciting results from your work? Are you advertising (summer) jobs?

We would like to hear from you! We want to make both this newsletter and the FME SOLAR website as active and relevant as possible. Therefore, news from our partners and colleagues are most welcome!

If you have anything to report, please send an e-mail to kristin.bergum@ife.no with more information.

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Erlend Honningsdalsnes, IFE

Photo credit PV + snow image:

Mari B.Øgaard

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