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Low temperature geothermal applications in Greece, including water desalination

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Greece is favoured by geothermal resources encountered in regions of Quaternary or Miocene volcanism and in continental basins of high heat flow.

Although the high enthalpy (>300 C) geothermal potential identified by deep drilling in Milos and Nisyros islands still remains unused, the low enthalpy geothermal resources (T<90C) identified by shallow wells in the vicinity of thermal springs are utilized mainly for spas, agricultural cultivations, aquaculture of algae and fish farming, corresponding to ~100 MWth of installed capacity in 2013.

To these applications another 100 MWth should be added corresponding to ground source heat pumps exploiting shallow geothermal energy all over the country.

Two European projects implemented by CRES and other partners proved the technical and economic feasibility of using low enthalpy geothermal energy (T<90C) for sea water desalination.

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Figure 1: D. MENDRINOS

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