

Corporate News

centrotherm photovoltaics completes first production line for Chinese state company

- **Commissioning of 60 MW production line at Lu'an Group Corp.**
- **Company enters into agreement for expansion to 1 GW**
- **Cost benefits from integrated factory concept**

Blaubeuren, September 22, 2010 – The first step of the large-scale solar cell production project at Chinese state company Lu'an Group Corp. in Changzhi has now started successfully. The 60 MW solar cell turnkey factory is based on state-of-the-art technologies. The investment volume is in the double-digit euro million range.

At the same time, the foundation stone was laid for additional production lines to manufacture solar cells to a level of between 300 and 360 MW, which will be installed during the second expansion stage. The related investment is in the lower triple-digit euro million range. In overall terms, the company plans to expand its manufacturing capacity to one gigawatt (GW) over the coming years, as set out in a cooperation agreement.

In parallel, centrotherm SiTec GmbH, a one hundred percent centrotherm photovoltaics AG subsidiary, is setting up production systems at Lu'an Group for the manufacture of polysilicon with annual production output in excess of 3,000 tonnes.

"We are successfully implementing the integrated factory concept by delivering polysilicon production and solar cell manufacturing as a one-stop solution, thereby positioning our customers as cost leaders on the market," stated Hans Autenrieth, Management Board member responsible for sales at centrotherm photovoltaics. "The Luan Group is enjoying double benefits at the same time – in addition to integration, there are also the benefits of scale thanks to capacity expansion."

About centrotherm photovoltaics AG

centrotherm photovoltaics AG, which is based at Blaubeuren, is the world's leading technology and equipment provider for the photovoltaics sector. The company equips well-known solar companies and new sector entrants with turnkey production lines and single equipment to manufacture silicon, crystalline solar cells and thin film modules. As a consequence, the Group possesses a broad and well-founded technological basis, as well as key equipment at practically all steps of the photovoltaics value chain. centrotherm photovoltaics guarantees its customers important performance parameters such as production capacity, efficiencies, and completion deadlines. The Group employs over 1,300 staff members, and operates in Europe, Asia and the USA. In the 2009 financial year, centrotherm photovoltaics achieved revenue of EUR 509.1 million, and EBIT of EUR 37.2 million. The company is listed in the TecDax of the Frankfurt Securities Exchange.

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