

Corporate News

Upturn in turnkey business: two major Chinese companies order turnkey lines to produce crystalline solar cells from centrotherm photovoltaics

Blaubeuren, September 27, 2010 – Positive signals from the Middle Kingdom: centrotherm photovoltaics AG reports a breakthrough in the market trend towards single equipment, and is selling turnkey lines to manufacture crystalline solar cells to two major Chinese customers. Both of these customers are each investing a double-digit amount in millions of euros for the systems that each comprise a total of 60 MW capacity. The agreements were recently signed – a prepayment has already been made for one of the orders.

These two major companies, including one Chinese state operation, which is pushing its integration further along the photovoltaic value chain with its order, are new entrants to solar cell production. This turnkey solution allows them to secure a rapid production start and a cost-efficient manufacturing process. While at one customer, the system will be shipped by the end of this year, and production will start up in the first quarter of 2011, the other customer will receive its production components in the first quarter of next year, with production start scheduled for the end of the first half of 2011.

"The turnkey business is starting to recover momentum. New entrants are exploiting low barriers to entry, and are receiving state-of-the-art technology and premium systems from the market leader", explained Dr. Peter Fath, Management Board member at centrotherm photovoltaics responsible for Technology and Marketing. The prospects are also pleasing: "We are engaged in advanced and promising discussions with further companies globally."

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.

centrotherm photovoltaics AG

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