

## Press release

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### **centrotherm photovoltaics elucidates company's outstanding market position at its third capital market day**

*Blaubeuren, October 6, 2010* – centrotherm photovoltaics AG's third capital market day encountered major response, as in the previous two years. Yesterday a total of around 30 institutional investors and analysts from Germany and abroad heard presentations given by Management Board members of the globally leading technology and systems supplier to the photovoltaics sector. Along with solar sector market trends, topics at the information exchange held on the company's premises at Blaubeuren especially included the company's technology and strategic development in its three business areas of Silicon & Wafer, Solar Cell & Module, and Thin Film Module.

"We note that production capacities for polysilicon, solar cells and modules are undergoing significant expansion. This is allowing our customers to achieve economies of scale, and consequently lower manufacturing costs", was how Robert M. Hartung, CEO of centrotherm photovoltaics, explained one central market trend. "As a technology leader, we are providing continuous support to our customers to achieve this premium cost leadership in an intensely competitive market." He went on to remark that the turnkey business had recovered significantly again, and that turnkey solutions allow the realization of rapid production starts and cost-effective manufacturing processes, which was also attracting newcomers to the market, in particular.

According to Dr. Peter Fath, Management Board member responsible for technology and marketing at centrotherm photovoltaics, increasing integration along the solar value chain was an identifiable trend among producers on the photovoltaic market: "Polysilicon producers are also aiming to produce solar cells and modules, and vice versa, in order to reduce costs and gain market shares." He noted that new techniques such as the selective emitter and the centaurus rear side technology in the Solar Cell & Module division had allowed centrotherm to increase solar cell efficiency to a level of 19.1 percent on a pilot line, above the market average. "We are currently in the process of transferring these excellent values into mass production for one customer. We are further expanding our customers' competitive advantage with our new technologies."

In the Silicon & Wafer division, guests were not only interested in the new 24 Pair CVD reactor for polysilicon manufacturing, but also particularly in the successful commissioning of two large-scale polysilicon production facilities in China and Taiwan. At Taiwan PolySilicon Corp. (TPSI), with annual production capacity of 5,000 tonnes, the largest First Silicon Out was realized in the history of centrotherm SiTec GmbH, a company in which the centrotherm Group bundles its silicon expertise. With its new multi-crystalline ingot furnace, a product that has already been sold successfully, centrotherm SiTec has proceeded a further step along the solar value chain. One market trend, according to Dr. Albrecht Mozer, Managing Director of centrotherm SiTec, is that "producers are placing greater emphasis on the integration of polysilicon manufacturing and crystallization".

The Swabia-based company has registered a thoroughgoing demand boom for technology and systems over recent months. "As the result of more rapid and optimized production and procurement process, we have managed to significantly increase output – without thereby compromising our high quality standards", explained Dr. Dirk Stenkamp, Chief Operating Officer (COO) of centrotherm photovoltaics AG. "Since production performance has grown disproportionately faster than resource input, we have also significantly raised margins."

"We are optimally positioned along the photovoltaic value chain. For this reason, we are growing at an above-average rate and on a highly profitable basis during this boom phase", was how CEO Robert M. Hartung summarized centrotherm photovoltaics' third capital market day. "Our technological edge represents a clear competitive advantage."

#### **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. centrotherm photovoltaics achieved revenue in the 2009 financial year of EUR 509.1 million, EBIT of EUR 37.2 million, and is listed in the TecDax of the Frankfurt Securities Exchange.

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