

Press release

centrotherm photovoltaics AG wins two iF product design awards for photovoltaic key equipment “c.FIRE“ and “GP ISO-TEST. Waf“

- **The “c.FIRE“ fast firing furnace impresses Taiwanese customer and passes site acceptance test**

Blaubeuren, November 24, 2011 – centrotherm photovoltaics AG has won two iF product design awards 2012 for its photovoltaic key equipment “c.FIRE“ und “GP ISO-TEST. Waf“. Both products, the “c.FIRE“ fast firing furnace and the wafer inspection tool “GP ISO-TEST.Waf“, impressed the international jury not only with their outstanding design but also with their functionality, innovation and environmental sustainability.

The “c.FIRE“ fast firing furnace, in which the front and rear contacts are burned into wafers at high temperatures, is the latest generation of the established fast firing furnace and is characterized by its compact design. Besides this footprint, the installation and maintenance systems have been further optimized in order to reduce the operating costs for solar cell producers. Volatile organic compounds (VOCs) that arise during the burning process were also taken into account: VOC treatment was fully integrated into the restructured housing, thereby enabling any solvents that are emitted to be fed back on a reliable and energy-efficient basis.

The new “c.FIRE“ fast firing furnace also impressed a Taiwanese customer. Within a few weeks the equipment was installed, ramped-up and had passed the site acceptance test.

The “GP ISO-TEST. Waf“ enables the quality control of wafers in the solar cell production. It monitors the insulation resistance between the front and rear side of wafers and enables contributes to the reduction of manufacturing costs in mass production. The design unifies cost optimized production and longevity.

„We are proud to have received this prestigious honor not only for our design but also for our technological and innovation strength“, commented Dr. Peter Fath, CTO of centrotherm photovoltaics AG. “At the same time this award is further motivation for us to continuously optimize technology and equipment for the production of solar cells in order to increase cell efficiency and to make solar power even more attractive.“

The iF product design award is one of the most prestigious industrial design awards and has been presented annually for nearly 60 years.

About centrotherm photovoltaics AG

centrotherm photovoltaics AG, which is based at Blaubeuren, Germany, 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, ingots and bricks, crystalline solar cells and modules, 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 around 1,900 staff, and operates globally in Europe, Asia and the USA. centrotherm photovoltaics achieved revenue in the 2010 financial year of EUR 624.2 million, EBIT of EUR 75.4 million. The company is listed in the TecDAX index on the Frankfurt Stock Exchange.

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