

Corporate News

centrotherm photovoltaics reports successful cooperation with Chinese state company in key polysilicon production equipment areas

- **Commissioning of second expansion step currently underway with annual capacity of 3,000 tones**
- **Customer STSIC focusing on integrated solar manufacturing chain with centrotherm technology and systems ranging from polysilicon production to ingoting and solar cell production**

Blaubeuren, December 19, 2011 – centrotherm SiTec GmbH, one of the world's leading technology providers for polysilicon, last week celebrated the successful cooperation with its Chinese customer Shaanxi Tianhong Silicon Industrial Corporation (STSIC) in key equipment items for the first expansion step for polysilicon production. The Chinese state company, which is headquartered in the Shaanxi Province, had previously signed its final acceptance, the so-called Final Acceptance Test (FAT). The two companies will meanwhile optimize processes further and bolster research and development into cutting energy consumption. STSIC has expressed its satisfaction with the cooperation venture, and is pleased with its results. centrotherm SiTec, for its part, enjoys certain benefits in terms of technology.

The first expansion step is arranged for annual capacity of around 1,250 tonnes of polysilicon to semiconductor quality. centrotherm SiTec prepared the factory concept, developed the process flow, accompanied the project through the planning and implementation stages, delivered the key equipment (reactors and converters), and started up the system together with the customer. centrotherm photovoltaics and STSIC are working hard together on the current commissioning of the second expansion step at STSIC, which entails state-of-the-art 24-pair reactor technology, and offers planned annual production of 3,000 tonnes to semiconductor quality.

Along with polysilicon production, STSIC is focusing on technology and systems from centrotherm to manufacture ingots and solar cells. Favorable production costs can be achieved by relying on this integrated solar value chain. STSIC achieved "First Ingot Out" with a centrotherm multi-crystalline ingot furnace in the middle of this year. Furthermore, two solar cell production lines with a total of 60 MW annual capacity are currently being commissioned.

For centrotherm, STSIC is an important solar market player that focuses on integration along the solar value chain to achieve optimally coordinated manufacturing processes that offer both lower operating costs and outstanding quality.

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, and EBIT of EUR 75.4 million. The company is listed in the TecDAX index on the Frankfurt Stock Exchange.

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