

Press Release

Clean energy for eco-friendly, convenient transportation

KYOCERA Starts Supplying Solar-Powered Recharging Stations for Electric Bicycles

Kyoto / Neuss, 17 January 2011 – Kyocera Corporation (President: Tetsuo Kuba) and its wholly-owned subsidiary Kyocera Communication Systems Co., Ltd. (President: Motoo Kobayashi; herein “KCCS”) announced the development of its new “Solar Cycle Stations” — environmentally friendly solar-powered recharging stations for electric-assisted bicycles that use the company’s high performance solar modules. The systems, which were codeveloped by the two companies, are sold in Japan by KCCS starting this month.

The stations utilize solar modules to generate clean energy for recharging the battery of electric bicycles, but are also connected to the regular power grid, via a DC-AC converter, ensuring stable service during cloudy weather and for recharging during the night. Furthermore, the stations are equipped with conventional outlets so that they can be used as a power source in the event of a power outage or emergency.

In recent years the popularity of electric bicycles has grown immensely due to a growing awareness of environmental issues which has led more and more people to seek ways to use alternative means of transportation, as well as the expanded use of electric bicycles at rental shops as fun and relaxing recreation in tourist areas. However, with the expanded use comes a growing need to construct more recharging stations. By using solar modules to generate the power for these bicycles Kyocera aims to provide an economical and ecological solution.

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Kyocera is continually searching for new and interesting applications for solar energy, and has been providing solar modules for cars, boats, parking lot “Solar Grove” shading structures, as well as more conventional residential and large-scale solar power generation.

About Kyocera

Headquartered in Kyoto, Japan, the Kyocera Corporation is one of the world's leading manufacturers of fine ceramic components for the technology industry. The strategically important divisions in the Kyocera Group, which comprises 213 subsidiaries (April 1st, 2010), are information and communications technologies, products to increase the quality of life, and environmentally friendly products. The technology group is also one of the largest producers of solar energy systems worldwide.

With a workforce of about 63.000 employees, Kyocera posted net sales of approximately €8.59 billion in fiscal year 2009/2010. The products marketed by the company in Europe include laser printers, digital copying systems, microelectronic components, fin ceramic products and complete solar systems. The corporation has two independent companies in the Federal Republic of Germany: the Kyocera Fineceramics GmbH in Neuss and Esslingen and the Kyocera Mita Deutschland GmbH in Meerbusch.

The company also takes a lively interest in cultural affairs. The Kyoto Prize, one of the most prominent international awards, is presented each year by the Inamori Foundation, once established by Kyocera founder Dr. Kazuo Inamori, to individuals and groups worldwide for their outstanding human achievement (converted at present €435.000 per prize category).

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