

Press information

Solar boom in Japan fuels European solar production

Kyocera solar module manufacturing plant in Czech Republic operating at full capacity

Kyoto/Neuss, 8 January 2013 – The Japanese technology company Kyocera is looking to the future of solar power with optimism. The company's European-based solar module assembly plant in Kadan, Czech Republic, is currently operating at full capacity — and there are plans for further expansion. The 'made in Europe' modules being produced here are helping to meet booming demand in Asia, among other places. In particular, high feed-in tariff rates are making Japan one of the most attractive countries for the solar industry.

The future markets for solar module manufacturers include the USA, Japan and Asia. Following the catastrophic disaster in Fukushima and subsequent shutdown of nuclear power plants throughout Japan, the solar industry is now rapidly growing in the 'land of the rising sun.' Kyocera is utilising the capacity of its European solar module plant in the Czech Republic to serve the Asian market, among other regions. Moreover, the European plant will need to be expanded even further to satisfy the increasing demand for complete energy systems. "The future of our solar module plant in Kadan is secure," says the European President of Kyocera, Shigeru Koyama.

Japan predicted to become third largest installer of solar power

Fuelled by very attractive developments in solar power since July, experts are predicting that the Japanese solar market will rank third

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in the world by 2014 when it comes to the installation of solar modules – along with the previous industry leader, Germany. The market in Japan is rapidly expanding following state support and is dominated by the big Japanese manufacturers such as solar pioneer Kyocera. “The aim of Kyocera is to stand out from competitors in the highly competitive solar market through the high quality and reliability of our products, an attractive price-performance ratio, high level of innovation, as well as by further expanding our solar business,” says Shigeru Koyama.

Intelligent, complete solutions for energy production and storage which decrease operator dependence on the public power network are currently bringing new impetus to the industry, and Kyocera recently announced its involvement in a smart-grid pilot project in New Mexico, USA.

Kyocera ‘made in Europe’ solar modules

The Czech Republic plant represents an important cornerstone in the Kyocera Group’s global solar production network. Kyocera has been manufacturing ISO and TÜV-certified solar modules there since 2005 in sizes ranging from (36-cell modules (140 Wp) to 80-cell modules (320 Wp)) with 392 employees and a high level of technology from the company’s homeland. Kyocera undertakes all stages of production itself. Thanks to its thorough testing, over 35 years of experience, and fully automated production process, Kyocera is able to ensure the highest quality production.

For more information about Kyocera: www.kyocera.eu

About Kyocera

Headquartered in Kyoto, Japan, Kyocera Corporation is one of the world's leading manufacturers of fine ceramic components for the technology industry. The strategically

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important divisions in the Kyocera Group, which is comprised of 235 subsidiaries (as of April 1, 2012), are information and communications technologies, products which increase quality of life, and environmentally friendly products. The technology group is also one of the largest producers of solar energy systems worldwide, with more than 3,0 gigawatts of solar power having been installed around the world to date.

With a global workforce of about 71,000 employees, Kyocera posted net sales of approximately €10.83 billion in fiscal year 2011/2012. The products marketed by the company in Europe include laser printers, digital copying systems, microelectronic components, fineceramic products and complete solar power systems. The Kyocera Group has two independent companies in the Federal Republic of Germany: Kyocera Fineceramics GmbH in Neuss and Esslingen and Kyocera Document Solutions in Meerbusch.

The company also takes an active interest in cultural affairs. The Kyoto Prize, a prominent international award, is presented each year by the Inamori Foundation — established by Kyocera founder Dr. Kazuo Inamori — to individuals and groups worldwide who have contributed significantly to the scientific, cultural, and spiritual betterment of humankind (converted at present €500,000 per prize category).

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