

## Press information

# **Kyocera announces launch of monocrystalline solar modules for residential use in Japan**

**The company further enhances its industry-leading production techniques by applying its expertise in monocrystalline and polycrystalline modules**

**Kyoto/Neuss, March 18, 2014 — Kyocera Corporation announced its first commercialized monocrystalline silicon solar modules, which it will begin fully supplying for the Japanese residential market in April.**

In the Japanese residential market, there is strong demand for high-output solar modules in order to generate electricity efficiently on limited rooftop spaces. In an effort to respond to these needs, Kyocera has been conducting R&D in monocrystalline solar modules, which feature higher power generation efficiency compared with polycrystalline modules, and plans to raise the conversion efficiency of its monocrystalline cells from 19% to more than 22% within the next few years. Having established the technology to ensure high quality and long-term reliability, the company will begin fully supplying monocrystalline modules in addition to its current polycrystalline modules.

In addition, Kyocera has succeeded in developing polycrystalline silicon solar cells with a conversion efficiency of 18.6%\*<sup>1</sup>, exceeding the company's record (17.8%) by 0.8%. The company began the world's first mass production of polycrystalline silicon solar cells in 1982, and in December 2011 achieved a conversion efficiency of 17.8%, an industry record at that time. The new conversion

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efficiency of 18.6% was achieved through the enhancement of crystal quality, improvement in the electrode process and reduction of carrier recombination. Sales of the further enhanced polycrystalline silicon solar cells will commence this summer in Japan.

Kyocera will become the only company carrying out mass production of both monocrystalline and polycrystalline solar modules from the manufacture of cells in Japan. The new modules will allow the company to further meet customer needs and enhance production techniques by applying its expertise between monocrystalline and polycrystalline module productions.

At the moment, the new modules will only be available on the Japanese market.

\*1 Conversion efficiency for mass-produced polycrystalline silicon solar cells

**For more information about Kyocera:** [www.kyocera.eu](http://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 important divisions in the Kyocera Group, which is comprised of 228 subsidiaries (as of April 1, 2013), 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 4, gigawatts of solar power having been installed around the world to date.

The company is ranked #492 on *Forbes* magazine's 2013 "Global 2000" listing of the world's largest publicly traded companies.

With a global workforce of about 71,000 employees, Kyocera posted net sales of approximately €10.58 billion in fiscal year 2012/2013. The products marketed by the company in Europe include laser printers, digital copying systems, microelectronic components, finceramic products and complete solar power systems. The Kyocera Group has two

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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 €354,000 per prize category).

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