

PRESS RELEASE

Gehrlicher Solar AG

Gehrlicher Solar receives Intersolar AWARD 2010

Gehrlicher Solar AG has received the Intersolar AWARD for its transportation and mounting system, which has been precisely matched to the special dimensions of large-area modules. This is the third successive time that Intersolar Europe – the world's leading trade fair for solar technology – has awarded prizes for innovative, groundbreaking products and services.

Dornach near Munich, 15 June 2010. The Intersolar AWARD international technology prize was presented to nine particularly innovative companies on 9 June, within the framework of an official awards ceremony at the innovation exchange. This included Gehrlicher Solar AG which received the prize in the "Photovoltaics" category for its transportation and mounting system.

Solar modules are being made larger and proportionally heavier due to reasons of economy, a trend which is making manual mounting almost impossible. Gehrlicher, a company specialised in the planning of roof-top plants in the megawatt range and also a developer of system components for photovoltaic plants, has matched its innovative new product to the requirements of these 5.7 square metre, 120 kg fragile giants.

Intersolar AWARD recognising economics in the field of photovoltaics

"Gehrlicher totally convinced the jury with this integrated logistics concept, which covers everything from production at the module manufacturing plant right through to mounting on the roof-top subassembly", explained Michael Powalla from the Zentrum für Sonnenenergie- und Wasserstoff-Forschung Baden-Württemberg (centre for solar power and hydrogen energy research Baden-Württemberg) in his laudation detailing the jury's decision. "The company, which is one of Germany's most experienced photovoltaic firms, has made an important contribution to the reduction of mounting times and lowering of costs with this innovation", continued Powalla.

Klaus Gehrlicher, CEO of the internationally-oriented company based in Neustadt near Coburg and Dornach near Munich, was delighted with the decision and thanked the jury on behalf of the entire research and development team. "It is a huge honour for our team to receive the attractive Intersolar AWARD and at the same time it serves as confirmation that we are headed in the right direction with our product developments. In the final analysis, we have to utilise every technical opportunity in order to build solar power plants economically."

Secure cassette transportation of large-area modules and "Gehrlicher Assembly Robot"

Gehrlicher has developed a reusable transportation cassette made of wood that exactly fits the 220 x 260 cm size of the modules so that they are secure against shifting during transportation. 18 large-area modules fit into the cassette, which has been tested for overseas, air and road transportation many times already. The

cassette will transport the modules from the site of manufacture at the factory to the site of the ground-mounted system. The solar technology company has also developed the "Gehrlicher Assembly Robot" – a tracked vehicle that is suitable for use on rough terrain. The vehicle has a swivel arm with six suction cups at the end able to lift the modules from the cassette onto the substructure.

Quick mounting onto the substructure

The large-area modules are mounted onto the substructure with the Gehrtec Backrail System from the Gehrtec product family, presented last year at the Intersolar 2009. Each module, which has several backrails attached to its rear side, will be inserted in the carrier rail connected to the substructure with the "Gehrlicher Assembly Robot". Owing to its gravity, the module will then slip into its final position and snap into the holders on its own.

Background Information

Gehrlicher Solar AG is a photovoltaics company, which was founded in 1994 by CEO Klaus Gehrlicher. As system integrator, the company plans, constructs, finances and operates photovoltaic plants. Furthermore, as a wholesaler, Gehrlicher Solar AG also offers solar modules as well as components developed by the company itself; these range from cables to substructures. The company also plans, sets up and manages photovoltaic funds or private placements for investors. As an internationally oriented company, Gehrlicher Solar AG currently has 260 employees at two locations in Germany - Neustadt near Coburg and Dornach near Munich as well as subsidiary companies in Italy, Spain, Greece, France, Czech Republic, Slovakia and in New Jersey /USA.

About the Intersolar Award

The Intersolar AWARD acknowledges outstanding innovations from both national and international companies and institutions in the solar industry. The competition is aimed at exhibitors participating in the Intersolar Europe in Munich or the Intersolar North America in San Francisco who have introduced future-oriented innovations. This year the areas of "Photovoltaics" and "Solar Energy Utilisation" as well as the category "PV Production Technology" were recognised for the first time. This year's Intersolar Award was presented on 9 June at 3:30 p.m., Hall C 3, Booth C3.150.

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