

Press release

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Building EQ – Intelligent energy management in buildings is crucial for climate protection

Symposium on October 1, 2009 in Berlin

The Fraunhofer Institute for Solar Energy Systems ISE will hold an international symposium on intelligent energy management for non-residential buildings on October 1, 2009 in Berlin. The event will offer energy and building professionals an overview of the latest technology and future trends. Further information is available under www.buildingeq-online.net

Since 2007, the EU's Building EQ project, which will end in December 2009, has been concerned with intelligent energy management processes in existing buildings. "Numerous projects have shown us that 5-30% of a building's energy consumption can be cut by taking measures that require practically no investment," reports project coordinator Christian Neumann. "For instance, you can precisely set the heating curve or switch off the ventilation system when it is not in use."

Practical experience shows that buildings have to be monitored during use, since changes are constantly occurring - through use, different user behaviors, and aging of building services equipment. "You cannot manage anything without measurement data," says Neumann, putting a new spin on conventional management wisdom. "In this project, we've developed tools that use monitoring to maintain a continuous picture of building efficiency. The symposium in Berlin presents our findings and offers an international forum to discuss them." Under www.buildingeq-online.net/results/, you can download detailed reports and guidelines for intelligent building management.

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The EU buildings directive (EPBD – Energy Performance of Buildings Directive) has specified Europe-wide standards for building certification since 2006. National legislation has built upon the EPBD framework. Furthermore, in Germany, the energy conservation ordinance (ENEV) will be updated on October 1, 2009. Building owners are required to show energy certification documents for their buildings prior to rental or sale. As sensible as certificates are, they are not an adequate means of adhering to certified values and, in turn, ensuring climate protection effects. Buildings require constant controlling to ensure compliance with certified values.

The Building EQ project partners are studying whether certification in accordance with the EPBD can be linked to operations monitoring. "Unfortunately, the EU buildings directive does not yet address monitoring and, thus, also fails to address quality assurance in building operations," says Neumann, summing up the project's findings and adding, "The situation is complicated by the very disparate national implementation of the EPBD in the individual member states. The symposium will also address how progress can be made in this area in the future."

Further information on the symposium

The Building EQ – Linking EPBD and Commissioning symposium will be held on October 1, 2009 from 10-17:30 at the State of Baden-Württemberg Representation Office in Berlin. There will be a stand-up reception at the same location the evening prior. Experts from Hungary, the US, Japan, Finland, the Netherlands, and Germany will give overview presentations and talk to participants. Target groups include facility managers, realty companies, planners, energy agencies and energy consultants. The participation fee is 320 euros. Detailed program and registration under www.BuildingEQ.eu or phone +49 228 34 74 98

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The text of this release and a photo are available for download on our website under: www.ise.fraunhofer.de

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Ministry of Economic Affairs and Energy of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia, Düsseldorf (Germany) - one of the buildings Building EQ studied.

Photo: Fraunhofer ISE

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