



Fraunhofer Institut  
Solare Energiesysteme

# Press Release

Freiburg  
February 17, 2009  
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## **Building for the future – the construction industry is banking on the sun**

- **International Solar Summit 2009 congress on the subject of “Solar Buildings” is taking place in Freiburg, Germany from 14 to 16 October**
- **State-of-the-art application options for the use of solar technology in buildings are being presented**

Just under 40 percent of the total end energy consumption is used for the conditioning of buildings, primarily in the form of fossil fuels. The ever acuter energy problem, the financial crisis and increasingly strict environmental protection requirements constantly present the building industry with new challenges while placing an ever greater focus on the subject of energy-efficient and solar construction. New technologies that can be used to enhance energy efficiency in existing buildings as well as reduce environmental pollution and energy costs are in demand.

The subject of “**Solar Buildings**” is also the focus of the international Solar Summit congress, already taking place for the second time in the Konzerthaus Freiburg (Freiburg Concert Hall) from 14 to 16 October 2009. Leading representatives from the fields of science, research and industry will be presenting the latest technological developments in solar energy research as well as innovative building concepts and project ideas from the areas of solar and energy-efficient construction. With numerous high-profile presentations and round-table discussions, the congress offers a comprehensive overview of the wide variety of application options available for the use of solar

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technology in buildings. Many technologies from the solar sector have been implemented in buildings in Freiburg Green City, thereby giving congress participants a practical insight into their usage potential.

**Dr. Hans-Martin Henning, Head of Department Thermal Systems and Buildings at the Fraunhofer Institute for Solar Energy Systems ISE:** "Solar energy will play a key role in meeting the energy demand in buildings – particularly for buildings which have a high energy efficiency. In its capacity as an interface between a building's interior and the outside world, the building envelope has a large amount of available space that can be used for capturing solar energy. The solar radiation thus captured can be converted into various usable forms of energy – heat, electricity or even cooling. At the Solar Summit 2009 conference on "Solar Buildings – Building Integrated Energy Supply Systems Using the Sun as Energy Source", integrating solar energy into buildings and building envelopes is a subject that will receive comprehensive coverage. The aesthetic, structural, architectural and system engineering aspects will be met. The conference offers all persons involved in this area – architects, builders and planners, researchers and developers – an outstanding platform for the exchange of know-how and transfer of ideas."

The highly successful première of the "Solar Summits Freiburg" congress series, held in October 2008 on the subject of photovoltaics and attended by more than 230 participants from 25 different countries, was confirmation of the fact that the solar sector needs a high-profile discussion and information platform. The 2009 congress is an optimum forum for finding out more about current market conditions and future developments. Moreover, the event is an ideal opportunity for establishing contact with other decision makers in the international solar industry.

The congress is being organised by Messe München GmbH in partnership with the Fraunhofer Institute for Solar Energy

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Systems ISE as well as with FWTM – Freiburg, Wirtschaft, Touristik und Messe GmbH. As the organiser of the leading international trade fair BAU, which again produced record-breaking results at the event held in January 2009, Messe München has demonstrated its special competency in the area that is the focus of this year's Solar Summit congress.

Further information available at: [www.solar-summits.com](http://www.solar-summits.com)

#### **About the "Solar Summits Freiburg" conference series**

"Solar Summits Freiburg" is a series of international conferences organized by Messe München GmbH partnership with the Fraunhofer Institute for Solar Energy Systems ISE as well as with FWTM – Freiburg, Wirtschaft, Touristik und Messe GmbH. This new series of conferences consists of annual events that will give participants a look at the latest scientific findings and their commercial implementation and use in the sector for renewable and efficient energy use. It is an outstanding international platform for the transfer of know-how between researchers, industry representatives and politicians.

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