

Press Release

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CPV-6 International Conference on Concentrating Photovoltaic Systems

International Experts in the Field of Concentrator PV meet in Freiburg, Germany from April 7-9, 2010

From April 7-9, 2010 an overview of the current activities in research, production and market implementation of this solar power plant technology will be presented at the sixth International Conference on Concentrating Photovoltaic Systems CPV-6. Over 120 scientists from 22 countries will report on the state of the art. This year for the first time at this conference series, a parallel exhibition will take place where industry will inform about their products and commercial experts will present market data. This year, the Fraunhofer Institute for Solar Energy Systems ISE is the organizer of the conference. In addition, the TPV-9 World Conference, which up to now existed as an independent scientific event covering new developments in the field of thermophotovoltaics, is this year integrated into the CPV-6.

Solar power plants play a central role in the mix of renewable energies, especially in countries where there is an abundance of direct solar radiation. Although still in the starting phase with respect to both market establishment as well as its potential for technological efficiency, concentrator photovoltaics is nevertheless among one of the leading technologies today. The CPV-6 conference covers the entire value-added chain from the cell to the module development, the optics and tracking through to the costs, market development and quality standards.

Since 2004, the conference organization has alternated between different research institutes. This year an especially large response has been registered compared to the past. "The immense interest in this field is not only demonstrated

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by the impressive number of registered scientists, but also the industry involvement is significant," remarks Dr. Andreas Bett, scientific leader of the Conference and Deputy Director of Fraunhofer ISE, with enthusiasm. "At present, there are seven conference sponsors and we are in discussions with others. For the first time ever, the CPV conference will be accompanied by an exhibition, featuring the equipment and services of the sponsors and other companies."

Included in the conference highlights are three top-class guest speakers. As the opening talk, Prof. Dick Swanson, CEO of the US American company Sunpower and longstanding developer of the CPV technology, will speak on "The Promise and Non-Promise of CPV Technology – From the Past until Today." On April 9, Dr. Michael Geyer, Abengoa, will report on the status quo of the concentrator solar thermal power plants, and Vahan Garbourshian, founder of the company AMONIX, will talk about "CPV Market and Cost Reduction Perspectives."

A feature of this year's CPV-6 conference is the integration of the TPV-9 World Conference. This international conference on thermophotovoltaics, which took place as an independent event up to now, will be held on the premises of Fraunhofer ISE on April 9 in the afternoon. In thermophotovoltaics, efficient photovoltaic cells, the majority of which are made out of III-V semiconductor material, convert the infrared radiation, for example, from a conventional burner, into electrical energy.

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For more than 20 years, researchers at Fraunhofer ISE have been working on the development of highly efficient solar cells based on III-V semiconductors. With 41.1%, the team of Andreas Bett and Frank Dimroth achieved a world record efficiency for concentrator solar cells at the beginning of 2009. At the photovoltaic conference PVSEC 2009, Andreas Bett received the Becquerel Prize, honouring him for his achievements in the field. Five years ago, the Fraunhofer ISE spin-off company Concentrix was founded. Today the

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company operates a 25 MW production for concentrator systems in Freiburg and has built a first power plant in Spain. On April 8, the second evening of the Conference, Fraunhofer ISE invites the participants to a gala dinner as well as to guided tours of the Institute.

Further information about CPV-6 can be found at:
www.cpv-conference.org



Fraunhofer ISE CPV-Testsystem in Freiburg.

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CPV-6

6. International Conference on
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