



P R E S S R E L E A S E

Schleswig-Holstein's largest municipal solar park officially opened

Hamburg, 12.10.2010: 10th October 2010 saw the official opening of the fully completed Meldorf municipal solar park in Schleswig-Holstein. Work on the park was concluded at the beginning of May, though the first section has been generating electricity since 2009 at an output of 3.4 megawatt peak (MWp). The final phase now completed, the park, which has a capacity of 7.65 MWp, is now Schleswig-Holstein's largest municipal solar project, and one of the most powerful projects in Northern Germany.

Together with the Mayor of Meldorf, Reinhard Pissowotzki, and the two energy policy spokesmen from the respective state parliamentary factions, Olaf Schulze (SPD) and Detlef Matthiessen (Bündnis90/Die Grünen), SunEnergy Europe GmbH, the general contractor for the project, used the day to cast a glance over the successful collaboration with all those involved and also to present the multitude of attractive applications offered by photovoltaics.

In his introductory speech, Dr Hartwig Westphalen, CEO of SunEnergy Europe GmbH, looked back over the project and at the same time gave a glimpse of what the future could hold: "The Meldorf solar park clearly illustrates how big solar power generation has now become. The fact that the town of Meldorf has become virtually energy-independent in terms of yearly consumption as a result of this project alone, demonstrates that photovoltaics is playing an ever greater role in shoring up German energy supply. One particular advantage enjoyed by solar energy can be seen in the breadth of its application. In addition to solar parks such as the one here in Meldorf, the priority of private solar power consumption is increasingly in the limelight, which of course provides an excellent opportunity for SunEnergy Europe products such as agricultural energy halls or solar carports."

Olaf Schulze emphasised the pioneering role played by the state of Schleswig-Holstein in the success of renewable energy expansion to date. However, a seasoned energy expert among SPD party members, he reminded listeners that the 340,000 jobs now created predominantly at German SMEs in the alternative energy sector could still be threatened by clinging onto obsolete structures such as nuclear energy.

Detlef Matthiessen, Green Party politician and virtually a local of the area, even gave parts of his opening speech to Meldorf's citizens in Low German dialect. He, too, made reference to the fact that extending the service lives of nuclear power plants, and building new coal power stations, poses an obstacle to the expansion of flexible,



renewable energy sources such as solar energy. In his opinion therefore, the next task for the coming years should chiefly lie in developing demand-oriented power supply using renewable energy.

Significant contributions to the success of the project were also made by partner company Solar-Energie-Andresen GmbH, which carried out the construction work, and issuing houses Q1 Capital GmbH and Neitzel & Cie., which distributed funds for the project. Furthermore, without the committed support of Meldorf's politicians and authorities, it would have been impossible to complete the work within such a short time frame.

The installation is equipped with high-quality polycrystalline Hyundai modules throughout, and the central inverter stations contain high quality devices from Swiss firm Sputnik. The support structure is a tried and tested proprietary system from Solar-Energie-Andresen.

The solar park was financed using a citizen participation model, which factored in preferential bond subscription terms for the town's residents. 350 investors, 161 of whom are from the region, acquired an interest in the plant operator, Solarenergie Nord GmbH & Co. KG. Around 2.4 million euros were raised by citizens in and around Meldorf. This equates to approximately half the solar park's equity capital.

The investors' expectations are set to be exceeded: the yield produced by the solar park to date has already surpassed original calculations. The benefit of this will primarily be seen in high dividends for shareholders. The park yields approximately eight percent more electricity than comparable regional installations and, despite the poor solar conditions this year, compounded by a winter thick with snow and an August full of rain, above three percent more than predicted by the independent yield forecasts drawn up for the solar park.

Meanwhile, the 100% CO₂-free electricity produced by the park will form the foundation for long-term, sustainable energy production in the local community. Given the high levels of insolation in the region and the efficiency-boosting, cooling effect of the wind, the 38,000 solar modules installed in the park are expected to cover the yearly electricity demand of over 2,000 homes.



The company

Hamburg-based SunEnergy Europe GmbH is a rapidly growing, internationally active photovoltaic wholesaler and systems provider. The company has already completed numerous European projects acting as general contractor. It has many years' experience in designing large-scale photovoltaic projects and roof-top systems, and offers a full range of services from planning, to the installation and management of solar power plants.

As a photovoltaics provider and specialist wholesaler for complete systems, as well as for high-quality solar modules and photovoltaic accessories, SunEnergy Europe has distributors all over Germany and collaborates with a network of German and European partners with specialist operations in eight countries.

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