

The Sun rises in the North

The federal state of Schleswig-Holstein moves ahead towards energy transition: Thursday, July 7th saw the official opening ceremony of a 2.3 MWp solar power park in the village of Klixbuell, close to the Danish border. Despite its reputation for bad weather, Northern Germany's geographical situation proves to be ideal for PV power: for several months now, the solar installation that was finished by end of 2010 has been carrying record-breaking yields. Not without good reason is Klixbuell close to Germany's so-called "Sunny Island" of Sylt as the excellent profitability of the PV power park demonstrates.

Among the modules installed were those supplied by long-time partners Sharp and Hyundai as well as SunEnergy's own quality module brand. The power park features SMA inverters while Solar-Energie Andresen and PV-Kraftwerker saw to the sub-structure delivery and mounting work.

Despite poor weather conditions with ice and snow, the installation was completed in time. Main construction work was done in December 2010 under the pressure of an alteration in the German "Erneuerbare-Energien-Gesetz" (EEG, Renewable Energy Act): Klixbuell was one of the last ground mounted installations to be realized on former farm land. Had the construction not met the December 31st deadline, no feed-in tariff would have been paid, thus threatening the € 6 m investment.

Robert Habeck, chairman of the Green party in the Schleswig-Holstein parliament, was impressed while visiting the PV power park during the opening ceremony: "Regional projects like this function as role models for the entire country. They do not only stand for a new energetic era but push it forward at the same time. Here's where it comes true: on the open field in Klixbuell."

Green party member and former energy secretary of Schleswig-Holstein Wilfried Voigt, one of Germany's pioneers of the Renewable Energy movement, points out the key changes in the energy production structure: "Traditional energy production increasingly loses its monopoly. Thus it is crucial to give citizens in

the regions the opportunity to participate in renewable energy investment, as shown in the Solar Power park in Klixbuell. This is how we will gain consumer acceptance regarding the necessary changes in our energy policy.”

SunEnergy Europe’s CEO Hartwig Westphalen was pleased with the increasing popularity of photovoltaics: “Since the technology’s introduction on a broader basis in 2000, it has proved its capacity and reliability. The range from installations for individual homes to large ground mounted installations shows a unique match with consumer’s demands.”



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