

Power from the desert: Concentrix Solar GmbH wants concentrating PV to play a major role in the Desertec Initiative.

Photo: Concentrix



Concentrix Solar joins Desertec Initiative

 The company Concentrix Solar GmbH, a manufacturer of concentrating photovoltaics (CPV) systems, has joined the Desertec Industrial Initiative (DII) as an associated partner. This makes Concentrix the second photovoltaics company in the DII after First Solar. The Desertec Initiative was launched in 2009 with the aim of developing large solar and wind power capacities in the MENA re-

gion in order to cover up to 15 % of Europe's energy requirement by 2050. Concentrix Solar emphasizes that the CPV technology, in contrast to solar thermal electricity generation, has no need either for water or for expensive air cooling technology. Furthermore, due to the modular design of CPV, the first systems can already supply electricity while the last ones are still being installed.

British government to expand feed-in tariff scheme

 In its coalition agreement, the new British government has announced the expansion of the feed-in tariff system for renewable energies. The previous government had already specified feed-in tariffs for installations with a capacity of up to 5 MW for homeowners and municipalities in April of this year. The new government's plans also include support for larger installations. Depending on installation size, the tariff that has been in force for PV installations so far specifies a 25 year payment ranging from 0.268 to 0.413 £/kWh, regardless of whether the generated electricity is fed into the grid or consumed by the operator himself.

New production process makes GaAs cheap

 Scientists at the University of Illinois have developed a new gallium arsenide (GaAs) production process that will substantially reduce the costs. GaAs is a photoactive semiconductor that is more efficient than Silicon and also less prone to temperature degradation, but very expensive at present. The American scientists' new method allows up to 10 GaAs layers to be grown on a carrier at once in order to save time and energy in comparison with the single-layer process. The GaAs layers are applied in alternation with aluminium arsenide layers, which are subsequently removed in an acid bath, thus separating the GaAs layers from each other. After the acid bath, the GaAs layers are removed mechanically one by one and placed onto a new carrier.

Solar power makes public broadcast in Ghana possible

 During the half-time break of the World Cup soccer game between Germany and Ghana on 23rd June the charity World Future Council (WFC) officially handed over a solar power installation to the village of Oboadaka in Ghana. The solar power plant made it possible for around 7,000 people from the area around the village, who have no access to the public electricity grid, to follow the World Cup games of their national team. The photovoltaic installation, which was provided to the village by WFC and their cooperation partner Energiebau Sunergy Ghana, will provide the local hospital with electricity after the World Cup has finished. The remaining parts of the public broadcast equipment, such as the beamer, screen and loudspeakers, will be given to the village school. The World Future Council, with its headquarters in Hamburg, Germany, is financed through donations.

Thanks to solar energy, 7,000 people can follow the World Cup games of their national team.

Photo: World Future Council

