

PV Crystalox Solar opens production facility for solar-grade silicon Official launch with the Minister for Economic Affairs Reiner Haseloff

PV Crystalox Solar Silicon GmbH, a PV Crystalox Solar company today opened its new solar-grade silicon production facility in Bitterfeld, Germany. This sets a new milestone to increase the Group's ability to source solar-grade silicon at favourable conditions allowing it to further expand its international business profitably.

The annual production is expected to reach its full capacity of approximately 1,800 MT within the next two years. "The production facility represents an enormous step for our group. If the market develops according to expectations, we would be able to further increase the capacity", said PV Crystalox Solar Board Member Hubert A. Aulich in the presence of Dr. Reiner Haseloff, Minister for Economic Affairs and Employment of Saxony-Anhalt, and numerous invited guests. Dr. Haseloff congratulated the company on its decision to build the production facility in Bitterfeld, thus appreciating the location's favourable environment. "We explicitly welcome the construction of the production facility by PV Crystalox in Saxony-Anhalt. It completes the entire solar value chain from the production of silicon up to full-fledged systems", said Haseloff.

The facility was built in the Chemical Park of Bitterfeld, Germany, the region with one of the largest chemical production sites in Europe. PV Crystalox Solar will employ a modified version of the well-established Siemens-process, which was optimised for solar applications. With this process high-purity silicon is produced that meets the specifications, the company requires for its in-house multicrystalline wafer technology.

Evonik Degussa GmbH, a wholly owned subsidiary of Evonik Industries AG, located in Essen, Germany, will supply PV Crystalox Solar with the high purity raw material Siridion[®] Chlorosilane in a fence to fence operation. Evonik is the largest chlorosilane supplier world-wide with more than 60 years experience in this field. The close partnership with Evonik will also result in an optimized chemical infrastructure for the efficient handling and usage of chlorosilanes and by-products. The company has signed a ten year contract with Evonik for the delivery of chlorosilanes.

Expected investment for the 1,800 MT facility will be approximately EUR 100 m EURO. Financial support will be provided by the state of Sachsen-Anhalt, the Federal Government and the European Union in the amount of approximately EUR 21 m. The plant has created ca. 100 new jobs and is one of the first industrial production sites in Europe dedicated exclusively to silicon for solar electricity using a modified version of the Siemens-process.

Notes to Editors:

PV Crystalox Solar, initially established in the UK in 1982, is specialised on crystalline technology and supplies the world's leading solar cell manufacturers with multicrystalline silicon wafers for use in solar electricity generation systems. The Group was one of the first to develop multicrystalline technology on an industrial scale, thereby setting standards for the industry.

The Group manufactures silicon ingots in Oxfordshire, United Kingdom, with parts of its output shipped to Japan, where they are sold as wafers after processing by a sub-contractor. A second part of the production is processed into wafers for European customers at the Group's facilities in Erfurt, Germany. With PV Crystalox Solar Silicon GmbH, the silicon producer, the group now covers the entire value chain from the raw material silicon up to the wafers.

PV Crystalox Solar was admitted to the main market of the London Stock Exchange on 11 June 2007. On 21 September 2008 the Group reported its half year results for the period ending 30 June 2008. PV Crystalox Solar's production output over the period was 110MWp. Total sales revenues of silicon products increased by 35.8 % to EUR 126 m compared to the same period in 2007.

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