

Press information

Solar energy in Italy is still on the rise

Kyocera supplies solar modules for second phase of 16 MWp solar park

Kyoto / Neuss, 12. December 2011 – The solar industry in Italy is still on the rise, as high levels of energy production owing to favourable sunlight conditions and an attractive feed-in tariff promote the expansion of renewable solar energy. The Japanese technology company Kyocera, one of the leading manufacturers in the field of photovoltaics, has recently delivered an additional 10 MWp of solar modules for an existing 6 MWp installation near Turin in Cigliano, Italy.

The additional output of 10 MWp is distributed equally between the "Lotti" and "Petiva" sites. 20,640 KD240GH-2PB Kyocera modules were installed at each of the two plants. Owing to its high efficiency, the large module is particularly suitable for installation in industrial and open-space facilities. With 60 cells, the Kyocera module has a performance of 240 Wp.

Recently completed, these new plants supplement an existing 6 MWp solar plant located in the Piedmont region, which is operated by Kyocera's partner Enermill. With an expanded total output of 16 MWp, the Enermill solar park is the largest installation in Italy to use Kyocera modules. The solar park is comprised of 41,280 Kyocera KD240GH-2PB modules, 13,920 KD215GH-2PU modules, and 12,900 KD235GH-2PB modules. The park can produce approximately 20 GWh hours of solar electricity, which is the equivalent energy requirement of 4,500 households, and off-set 18,000 tons of CO₂ annually. The Enermill solar park covers an area of 22ha.

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Sunny future for the solar energy sector in Italy

Italy is one of the most important markets for solar energy in Europe. According to the GSE — an authority founded by the Italian Ministry of Economy and Finance for the promotion of renewable energies — in this year alone additional photovoltaic installations with an output of 6.5 GWp have been completed as of September. Furthermore, the sustainable production of electricity using photovoltaics is promoted by the Italian government with a feed-in tariff, for which the rates are considerably attractive in comparison to other European countries.

Kyocera Solar: high quality for exceptional performance

Kyocera has been developing solar cells for photovoltaics since 1975 and is regarded as a pioneer in the field. The company covers the entire value chain, from processing the raw material through to module assembly. This results in solar modules of a particularly high quality. By 2013, Kyocera aims to generate a production capacity of one gigawatt (GWp) per year.

About Kyocera

Headquartered in Kyoto, Japan, Kyocera Corporation is one of the world's leading manufacturers of fine ceramic components for the technology industry. The strategically important divisions in the Kyocera Group, which is comprised of 208 subsidiaries (as of March 31, 2011), are information and communications technologies, products which increase quality of life, and environmentally friendly products. The technology group is also one of the largest producers of solar energy systems worldwide.

With a global workforce of about 66.000 employees, Kyocera posted net sales of approximately €10.74 billion in fiscal year 2010/2011. The products marketed by the company in Europe include laser printers, digital copying systems, microelectronic components, fineceramic products and complete solar power systems. The Kyocera Group has two independent companies in the Federal Republic of Germany: Kyocera Fineceramics GmbH in Neuss and Esslingen and Kyocera Mita Deutschland GmbH in Meerbusch.

The company also takes an active interest in cultural affairs. The Kyoto Prize, a prominent

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international award, is presented each year by the Inamori Foundation — established by Kyocera founder Dr. Kazuo Inamori — to individuals and groups worldwide who have contributed significantly to the scientific, cultural, and spiritual betterment of humankind (converted at present €470.000 per prize category).

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