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International Market Strategy

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Europe: EU Sees Solar Power Imported from Sahara

Europe will import its first solar-generated electricity from North Africa within the next five years, European Energy Commission announced.

The EU is hoping to reach its long-term goal of de-carbonising its economy by topping up domestic renewable energy production with solar electricity imports from North Africa.

One of the flagship projects in this regard is the Desertec Industrial Initiative, which was launched in July 2009 by 12 companies who agreed to establish financing plans to develop solar projects in the Sahara Desert. The €400 billion project aims to eventually provide 15% of Europe's electricity needs with solar power imported via a high-voltage cable.

The European Union is backing projects to turn the plentiful sunlight in the Sahara desert into electricity for power-hungry Europe, a scheme it hopes will help meet its target of deriving 20% of its energy from renewable sources in 2020. The amount of electricity would go up into the thousands of megawatts as projects including the €400 billion DESERTEC SOLAR SCHEME come on stream.

The EU is backing the construction of new electricity cables, known as interconnectors, under the Mediterranean Sea to carry this renewable energy from North Africa to Europe. Some environmental groups have warned these cables could be used instead to import non-renewable electricity from coal- and gas-fired power stations in north Africa.

The DESERTEC consortium includes major firms such as SIEMENS, RWE and DEUTSCHE BANK. They are expected to seek public money for the project.

Source: www.euactiv.com

Europe: DAIKIN EUROPE Launches European Net Zero Energy Project

DAIKIN INDUSTRIES, has begun the European Net Zero Energy Project, an experimental co-operative project between industry and academia that aims for energy balance in buildings to achieve zero net energy consumption.

As a first step, DAIKIN EUROPE, in co-operation with ZELLER GROUP, a sole agent of DAIKIN GERMANY, will construct a Net Zero Energy Office in Northwest Germany (Hertern) that features photovoltaic solar power generation and energy-saving DAIKIN products.

Over a period of one year beginning from July 2010, energy efficiency of the project will be verified by data measurements, such as energy consumption of the building's heating, cooling, hot water supply, ventilation, and lighting systems as well as a combination of energy-saving devices and energy harvesting, in hopes of realising a building with net zero energy for the year.

DAIKIN EUROPE plans to utilise this project as a means for field-testing new next generation technology and products that correspond to the environmental measures of Europe where regulations are being strengthened.

DAIKIN EUROPE has equipped the office building with efficient lighting, a photovoltaic solar power generation system, and energy-saving DAIKIN products including DAIKIN ALTERMA, the heat pump type heating and hot water supply system that uses heat pump technology to provide renewable energy, and the highly energy efficient VRV, a building type multi-split air conditioner.

By evaluating the performance of the net zero energy building complex aiming for zero energy consumption, DAIKIN EUROPE intends to promote overall energy conservation in its building equipment proposals.

In addition to this project, plans are being made to expand similar type projects to countries such as France and the United Kingdom. Other organizations that plan to participate in this project include the German research facility Fraunhofer UMSICHT, Fraunhofer IBP, TU Dortmund University, the French research institute CETIAT (Technical Centre for the Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning Industries), and the University of Manchester in the United Kingdom.

Source: Japan Corporate News Network

Finland: RETTIG GROUP to Issue €100 million Bond

Finnish RETTIG GROUP is issuing a domestic bond of €100 million. The bond has a maturity of five years. This is the group's first bond issue.

RETTIG GROUP operates in three business areas; shipping, radiators and underfloor heating, and real estate.

Source: Nya Åland

Germany: BOSCH SOLAR ENERGY Presented a New Technology

BOSCH SOLAR ENERGY presented itself at the INTERSOLAR fair in Munich with three new products. The focus is on the new combination of mounting system and micromorphous thin-film solar modules from BOSCH, which was developed in cooperation with BOSCH REXROTH. The innovative new slide-in system enables the rapid and safe installation of the frameless thin-film solar modules. Tracks are used instead of the usual clamps. The photovoltaic modules are simply inserted into the guide pieces and fastened instantly. This cuts the installation time in half to 15 seconds per module. This means that around twice as many modules can be installed in the same amount of time as one could using a conventional four-point clamping system. Since installation brackets and clamps are no longer required, material costs are also reduced by about 40%.

The second new product presented for the first time also simplifies the installation process: The framed micromorphous thin-film solar module BOSCH Solar Module m-Si frame. In contrast to the otherwise standard glass-glass thin-film solar modules, the frame enables an assembly similar to crystalline PV modules with glass-foil-laminate. This makes the framed thin-film solar module considerably lighter than conventional thin-film modules of its size. With a total weight of just 17 kg, it is easy to handle and quick to install. The frame enables cost effective installation with standard mounting systems.

Furthermore, BOSCH SOLAR ENERGY presented a thin-film solar module based on CIS technology for the first time. The CIS thin-film solar module BOSCH SOLAR MODULE CIS and the BOSCH SOLAR MODULE CIS frame convince thanks to their classy design, high-quality workmanship and attractive yields. This makes BOSCH's CIS solar modules particularly well-suited for architecturally demanding PV solutions and facade installations.

Source: ENP Newswire

Germany: STIEBEL ELTRON to Open Outlet in Novosibirsk

On 30 June 2010 Germany's producer of heating and water heating equipment STIEBEL ELTRON is to open its outlet in Novosibirsk (Siberia). It will include products by STIEBEL ELTRON, AEG, and TATRAMAT. The outlet aims to promote the brand and organise work with partners in Siberian Federal District.

Source: News.ngs.ru



Germany: VIESSMANN GROUP To Take Over SCHMACK BIOGAS

Insolvent German biogas technology firm SCHMACK BIOGAS said its insolvency administrator has agreed to transfer the troubled company's assets to heating systems producer VIESSMANN.

Source: M&A Navigator

Ireland: Irish Firms Win Green Energy Contracts

Two Irish green energy companies have announced a contract with an Austrian biomass boiler manufacturer making them exclusive sales and maintenance partners for the wood chip and pellet boilers in Ireland.

With branches in more than 11 countries Worldwide and headquarters in Austria, KWB is one of the worlds leading biomass boiler manufacturers and operates the largest private biomass research centre in Europe.

Derry-based RURAL GENERATION and Waterford based TECHNICAL ENERGY SOLOUTION (TES) made the deal with KWB BIOMASS HEATING SYSTEM to become exclusive Irish agents for the heating systems.

Source: TendersInfo



United Kingdom: London Housing Projects Decline Dramatically as Recovery Stalls

The number of new homes built in London is expected to fall sharply over the next two years, according to findings of a report into the capital's housing market.

The Drivers Jonas/Deloitte London Residential Crane Survey 2010 warns the full force of the downturn will be felt in 2011/12 with a diminishing development pipeline. Only 7,000 completions for residential units are scheduled for next year and only 5,500 units for 2012.

The report will raise further concerns within the housing sector, with house builders already facing huge pressures after the Government pulled KICKSTART funds and told councils to scrap regional housing targets.

Mortgage lending in the UK has also been lower than expected in the first four months of the year, threatening to hamper the recovery in the housing market, according to the Council of Mortgage Lenders.

Recent estimates for the first four months of 2010 put gross lending at just over £40 billion, which is tracking below the CML's forecasts of £150 billion for the whole of 2010.

Data from the Bank of England shows mortgage lending at a higher rate than the nadir of the market seen in 2008, but still significantly lower than the peak of the market in 2006 and 2007.

Mortgage approvals peaked at 130,000 in November 2006 and dropped to just 27,000 in November 2008. There were 50,000 approvals in April.

Source: www.hvnplus.co.uk



United Kingdom: ECA and HVCA Join UK Contractors Group

The ELECTRICAL ASSOCIATION CONTRACTORS (ECA) and the HEATING AND VENTILATION CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION (HVCA) have joined the UK Contractors Group.

The move will give the groups an input into the UKCG's lobbying activity. The body was set up in 2008 to work alongside the CBI Construction Council, in order to get more direct contact with Whitehall and senior ministers.

ECA Group chief executive David Pollock said: "We believe it is important that major players in the supply chain are sitting around the same table as main contractors. We share the same goals and challenges."

Robert Higgs, chief executive of HVCA, said: "We want to play a role in implementing UKCG's agenda, especially in its business improvement programmes, such as health and safety and the environment."

UK Contractors Group chairman James Wates said: "Specialist engineering contractors will add weight to the group's activities. It has always been my ambition that the industry speaks with a more coherent voice. With UKCG growing from strength to strength and our growing links to the CBI, this is now fast becoming a reality."

Source: www.hvnplus.co.uk