

April 14th, 2008

Hanover Fair 2008 (April 21st till 25th):

The German Government advocates the import of solar electricity from deserts

- French Mediterranean Solar Plan to be presented at the HANOVER FAIR
- The Forum "10,000 Solar GigaWatts" about Concentrating Solar Thermal Power (CSP) plants will be in Hall 27

Hanover. The German government supports efforts to import electricity from concentrating solar thermal power plants in the countries of North Africa and the Middle East (MENA). This was confirmed by Michael Mueller, Parliamentary Secretary of State in the Federal Ministry of Environment, in an official response to a question by Green Party Member of Parliament Hans-Josef Fell on March 27th, 2008. The expansion of renewable energies, in particular the solar electricity generation in the MENA countries and to transmit it throughout Europe, North Africa and the Middle East, such as the "DESERTEC" proposal suggests, is in the Pan-European interest, says State Secretary Mueller. It is anticipated that specific cooperation procedures and activities will be identified at the Head of States conference of EU member states and the countries bordering the Mediterranean Sea on July 13th 2008 in Paris. Also the French government plans to raise the issue of solar power from the desert at the conference.

The DESERTEC Concept "Clean Power from Deserts" from The CLUB OF ROME is a comprehensive proposal on energy, water and environment security in Europe, the Middle East and North Africa. It involves the construction of facilities for the use of wind energy and Concentrating Solar Thermal Power (CSP) in desert regions. The use of heat storage, e. g. in tanks of molten salt, means that electricity can be generated during both the day and the night. The electricity will be transmitted to European customers via low-loss long-distance high-voltage DC transmission.

High priority for renewable energies around the Mediterranean

As part of the "Barcelona Process: Union for the Mediterranean", the German Federal Ministry of the Environment (BMU) sees an opportunity to support challenging regional projects for the use of renewable energy sources in the Mediterranean region and to provide significant funding for such projects via the "European Neighborhood Policy" (ENP). Cooperation in the area of renewable energy, energy efficiency and the expansion of existing energy networks have been identified as top priorities in Paris. The German Government intends that electricity from renewable sources in North Africa that is consumed in the EU will count towards the EU target that 20% of all energy used in the EU should come from renewable sources by 2020.

Forum "10,000 Solar GigaWatts" at the HANOVER FAIR

A French Solar Plan for the Mediterranean Union will be presented at the Forum 10,000 Solar GigaWatts, on April 23th and 24th at the HANOVER FAIR. At the same conference, a representative of the Italian Embassy will describe an Italian-German project to build electricity connections with North Africa. Well-known companies of the CSP industry will discuss the technical feasibility of a global supply of solar power from deserts as the DESERTEC Concept proposes. A representative of the HSH Nordbank (the third largest investor in renewable sources of energy) will speak about "Financial Resources and Investment Security".

Further information:

A press conference to the Forum 10,000 Solar GigaWatts will be held in Hanover on April 24th from 12:15 to 13:00. In this context, there is an opportunity offered, amongst other offers, to photograph a huge parabolic through collector of a CSP plant. The program can be downloaded at:

www.DESERTEC.org/downloads/10000_solargigawatts.pdf

Letter from Michael Mueller, Parliamentary Secretary of State in the Federal Ministry of Environment:

www.DESERTEC.org/downloads/german_government_2008-04-07.pdf

Photos & information about solar power plants for journalists:

www.solarmillennium.de (by prior registration)

www.DESERTEC.org

About HANNOVER MESSE (the Hannover Fair)

The world's leading showcase for industrial technology is staged annually at the Hannover Exhibition Center in Hannover, Germany. The next HANNOVER MESSE will be staged from 21 to 25 April 2008, with Japan as its official Partner Country. The lineup of flagship fairs taking place under the umbrella of HANNOVER MESSE 2008 is as follows:

INTERKAMA⁺ • Factory Automation • Industrial Building Automation • Digital Factory • Subcontracting • Energy • Pipeline Technology • Power Plant Technology • MicroTechnology • Research & Technology

In 2008 the spotlight will be on the fields of industrial automation, energy technology and subcontracting, as well as on cutting-edge technologies.

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Contact person for the Editors:

Katja Havemeister

Deutsche Messe

Tel. +49 511 89-31034

E-Mail: katja.havemeister@messe.de

Michael Straub

Trans-Mediterranean Renewable Energy Cooperation (TREC)

An Initiative of the German Association to The CLUB OF ROME

DESERTEC Office Manager

TREC Marketing

Tel: +49 (0)711 - 67 52 999

Mobile: +49 (0)179 - 90 46 859

E-Mail: Michael.Straub@ClubOfRome.de

Additional press releases and photos can be found at:

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