

Press Release

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Fraunhofer ISE and VDE expand cooperation

New Test Center for Photovoltaic Modules inaugurated in Singapore

The boom in the photovoltaic industry, triggered by the adoption of the German Renewable Energy Law and other European and international market incentive programs, is continuing to spread. An increasing amount of Asian countries are joining in on the production. Often they first concentrate on export, since no appreciable national market exists. With the increasing competition, manufacturers are under more pressure to ensure the quality of their products through accredited testing and certification procedures. The VDE Institute and the Fraunhofer Institute for Solar Energy Systems ISE have realized this demand. In cooperation with the Solar Energy Research Institute of Singapore SERIS, they have opened up the first testing and certification center for photovoltaic modules in South East Asia. The festive opening ceremony took place this year in January in Singapore.

“Together with our partners, we are now able to offer the photovoltaic industry in South East Asia a Center in their region where modules can be tested and accredited according to the established international standards,” says Dr. Hans-Martin Henning, coordinator of the Joint Venture from the Fraunhofer side and Deputy Director of Fraunhofer ISE.

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In the cooperation, the new Joint Venture company VDE-ISE Pte. Ltd., founded by VDE and Fraunhofer ISE, is under the leadership of Henry Paetz. The company is responsible for the customer service, certification and safety tests according to IEC 61730, while the Solar Energy Research Institute of Singapore SERIS under the leadership of Prof. Joachim Luther carries out the various performance tests.

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The partners:

Fraunhofer ISE has many years of experience in the calibration of solar modules. Since almost 20 years, module manufacturers worldwide have been making use of the precision measurements carried out at the CalLab PV Modules at Fraunhofer ISE. The researchers in Freiburg are also leading in the field of life cycle analyses for photovoltaic modules. For more than three years now, Fraunhofer ISE is operating its own test center for photovoltaic modules, where various tests based on accepted international standards are offered to customers for product testing and certification. Through the partnership with VDE, the certifications according to IEC 61215 for PV modules based on crystalline silicon cells and according to IEC 61646 for modules based on thin film solar cells are offered.

The VDE – the Association for Electrical, Electronic and Information Technologies – is an independent institution which is nationally and internationally accredited. Under the leadership of Wilfried Jäger, Managing Director, the VDE is responsible for testing and certifying the safety and performance of electronic devices, components and systems for the consumer and the general public using the highest standards of quality.

Both partners, Fraunhofer ISE and VDE, are intensively working on further developing the international testing standards within the International Electrotechnical Commission (Technical Committee 82, Working Group 2: Modules) and the DKE (Deutsches Kommission Elektrotechnik Elektronik Informationstechnik in the DIN and VDE).

The Solar Energy Research Institute of Singapore SERIS, whose director Prof. Joachim Luther is the former Director of Fraunhofer ISE, exists since April 2008. It carries out research

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on the industrial level in the areas of solar cells, module development and energy efficient building.

VDE-ISE Pte. Ltd.

a joint venture of



Logo of the Joint Venture company VDE-ISE Pte. Ltd.

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