

## Corporate News

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### **centrotherm photovoltaics wins tender for multi-crystalline ingot furnaces in China**

- **Customer expands photovoltaic value chain with centrotherm SiTec technology and equipment**
- **Around EUR 50 million of sales potential in the crystallization and wafer area will be expected by 2011**

*Blaubeuren, September 20, 2010* – centrotherm SiTec GmbH, a one hundred percent subsidiary of centrotherm photovoltaics AG, has prevailed over renowned competitors to win a tender to supply several multi-crystalline ingot furnaces to a prominent Chinese company. The furnaces will be shipped in the first quarter of 2011. The first silicon ingots will be produced just six weeks later. The investment volume is in the single-digit euro million range. "This success confirms our strategy of focusing on efficient processes along the entire photovoltaic value chain," commented Dr. Albrecht Mozer, Managing Director of centrotherm SiTec. "It allows our existing customer to access a further step in the solar value chain, and integrates crystallization with a polysilicon project that centrotherm SiTec has already successfully realized." The client has also ordered further polysilicon production systems in order to expand its existing capacities.

Along with reactors and converters, multi-crystalline ingot furnaces comprise key silicon production equipment. In the multi-crystalline ingot furnace, polysilicon particles are initially smelted in a quartz crucible at over 1,450° Celsius. The silicon melt is subsequently converted into multi-crystalline ingots by a process of directional solidification. Bars and wafers are then cut from these crystallized silicon blocks, before being processed to produce solar cells and modules.

The integration of polysilicon production and crystallization at one location allows significant manufacturing cost savings of around 10 percent to be realized. centrotherm SiTec identifies around EUR 50 million of revenue potential in the crystallization and wafer area by 2011 for the centrotherm photovoltaics Group.

**About centrotherm photovoltaics AG**

centrotherm photovoltaics AG, which is based at Blaubeuren, is the world's leading technology and equipment provider for the photovoltaics sector. The company equips well-known solar companies and new sector entrants with turnkey production lines and single equipment to manufacture silicon, crystalline solar cells and thin film modules. As a consequence, the Group possesses a broad and well-founded technological basis, as well as key equipment at practically all steps of the photovoltaics value chain. centrotherm photovoltaics guarantees its customers important performance parameters such as production capacity, efficiencies, and completion deadlines. The Group employs over 1,300 staff members, and operates in Europe, Asia and the USA. In the 2009 financial year, centrotherm photovoltaics achieved revenue of EUR 509.1 million, and EBIT of EUR 37.2 million. The company is listed in the TecDax of the Frankfurt Securities Exchange.

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