

Power from Solar Energy

With their new joint venture RWE Schott Solar GmbH, the partners RWE Solutions and Schott have launched an ambitious project in the field of solar technology that has a good potential for growth in the long term.

► RWE Schott Solar GmbH, Alzenau, commenced operations on October 1, 2002. RWE Solutions AG, Frankfurt am Main, and Schott Glas, Mainz, have combined all their terrestrial photovoltaic activities into this joint venture. RWE Solar GmbH and its U.S. subsidiary ASE Americas, Inc. together with the U.S. company Schott Applied Power Corporation have been integrated into the new company. The European Commission on Competition Policy has since approved the merger without any restrictions. RWE Solutions and Schott have equal rights in managing the joint venture.

Pooling the activities

"By pooling our solar activities we intend to expand the leading position of RWE Schott Solar in a dynamic photovoltaic market," explained the CEO of RWE Solutions Heinz-Werner Binzel and Schott Executive Vice President Dr. Udo Ungeheuer. "The top position of the RWE Solutions subsidiary in solar technology will be strengthened by Schott's know-how in materials research and production as well as its global presence."

RWE Schott Solar GmbH is the market leader in Germany and ranks sixth in the world market. "With the substantial expansion of production capacities and this partnership with Schott, we are aiming to significantly increase our market share," says Dr. Winfried Hoffmann, one of the joint Managing Directors of RWE Schott Solar.



With the new "SmartSolarFab" technology, the entire value-added chain of solar power is realized.

The activities in the field of high-performance solar cells for aerospace applications were transferred to an independent organization. RWE Space Solar Power GmbH is wholly owned by RWE Solutions AG.

Everything from a single source

RWE Schott Solar GmbH will be involved in various product areas of solar technology: silicon wafers, solar cells and modules for

the terrestrial market as well as thin-film modules based on amorphous silicon.

In 2001 the company generated sales of 96 million euros with more than 550 employees. With its 60-MW "SmartSolar-Fab" in Alzenau, the company opened an integrated production facility for wafers, solar cells and modules in August 2002 that is unique the world over. Capacities at the Alzenau site will thus soon be quadrupled. ◀



RWE Schott Solar manufactures wafers, solar cells and modules at its newly constructed 20,000-m² production plant in Alzenau.