

SCHOTT Solar Researchers Nominated for Germany's Federal President's Prize for Innovation and Technology

SCHOTT Solar receivers increase efficiency of solar power plants through use of parabolic trough technology

October 21, 2008 (Berlin/Mainz) – Dr. Nikolaus Benz and Dr. Thomas Kuckelkorn, of SCHOTT Solar, have been nominated for the most prestigious innovation prize in Germany, the 'Federal President's Prize for Innovation and Technology.' The Head of the Federal Presidential Office, Secretary of State Dr. Gert Haller, announced the nominations last week at a press conference in Berlin. Under the direction of Drs. Benz and Kuckelkorn, SCHOTT Solar has developed a CSP receiver for solar power plants with higher efficiency, so even more energy to be obtained from the sun in parabolic trough Concentrated Solar Power plants (CSP).

Researchers at the Fraunhofer Institute, the largest organization for applied research in Europe, have calculated that in one hour, the sun sends enough energy to earth to cover all the energy needs of humankind for one year. In SCHOTT Solar's receiver technology, the solar irradiation is trapped using large reflector surfaces, bundled, and then converted into usable energy.

"Our receivers move the CSP technology one giant step forward," said Dr. Benz. "In the Earth's Sunbelt regions, our technology combined with innovation in electric plant efficiencies can make an industry breakthrough possible and help free the world's dependence on fossil fuels."

The CSP receivers are core components in parabolic trough power stations. Receiver quality has a considerable effect on how much solar energy can be converted into electricity. The details that make Benz and Kuckelkorn's innovation for SCHOTT Solar so special can be found on the prize's website (www.deutscher-zukunftspreis.de).

Federal President Horst Koehler will announce the winner of the 'Federal President's Prize for Innovation and Technology' on December 3, 2008 in Berlin. Each year, the prize, worth €250,000, recognizes 'technical, engineering or scientific innovations'. No scientist can apply for the prize, but a jury composed of renowned experts proposes only four candidates for consideration.

"We are particularly delighted that our developers are among the few nominees, and we're crossing our fingers for both Dr. Benz and Dr. Kuckelkorn." said Dr. Udo Ungeheuer, speaker of SCHOTT's board of management, "The nomination recognizes the motivated and highly professional research and development team at SCHOTT Solar, and that our innovations represent, at the international level, the state of the art in technology."

Press photos are available for downloading under www.schott-pictures.net

About SCHOTT Solar

SCHOTT Solar's high quality products exploit the virtually inexhaustible potential of the sun as a renewable source of energy. For this purpose SCHOTT Solar produces important components for photovoltaic applications and solar energy plants with parabolic trough technology. In the photovoltaic industry, the company is one of the few integrated manufacturers of crystalline silicon wafers, cells and modules. Wafer production is mainly carried out through a WACKER SCHOTT Solar joint venture, which ensures the supply of silicon necessary for long-term growth.

Thanks to over 20 years of experience in thin-film technology, SCHOTT Solar also regards itself as one of the industry's cutting-edge companies. In receiver production for solar power plants with parabolic trough technology, SCHOTT Solar considers itself to be the market and technology leader. The receivers are key components in large-scale power plants that generate electricity from solar energy centrally on the basis of parabolic trough technology and can supply entire cities with power.

SCHOTT Solar has production facilities in Germany, the Czech Republic, the USA and Spain. SCHOTT Solar's innovative power and technological expertise date back to the late 1950s. The main shareholder of SCHOTT Solar AG is SCHOTT AG, Mainz, Germany. The SCHOTT group develops special materials, components and systems for the household appliance, pharmaceutical, solar energy, electronics, optical and automotive industries. With around 16,700 employees, the SCHOTT Group generated a worldwide turnover of about 2.1 billion euros in fiscal year 2006/2007.

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