

Press Release

New plant in San Diego

Kyocera starts manufacturing of solar modules in the USA

Kyoto / Neuss, 04 March 2010 – The Japanese technology corporation Kyocera, one of the leading manufacturers in the photovoltaic field, plans to begin manufacturing solar modules in California, to serve the U.S. market's growing demand for clean energy. The expansion will contribute to Kyocera's plans to achieve a new milestone in its solar module manufacturing – attaining global production capacity of one gigawatt per year, by March 2013.

The new solar module manufacturing will begin in San Diego at Kyocera's Balboa Avenue facility during the first half of 2010. The production venue was selected to cater specifically to the U.S. market's increasing demand for residential, commercial, turn-key solutions and utility-scale solar electric generating projects.

"The U.S. is experiencing extraordinary growth in its adoption of solar electricity," said Mitsuru Imanaka, European President Kyocera Fineceramics. "Kyocera's San Diego plant will provide high-quality, high-efficiency solar modules to serve this expanding market. With a 35-year experience of providing clean energy through solar modules, Kyocera is adding capacity globally to meet worldwide demand."

In addition to the operations coming to San Diego, Kyocera currently has solar module manufacturing facilities in Japan, China, the Czech Republic and Mexico. Kyocera Group companies currently employ more than 4,000 people in the United States.

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In its production, Kyocera attaches particular importance to covering the entire value-added chain itself and thus guaranteeing quality and performance of the modules.

Thanks to the interplay between 35 years of experience in the solar business, a close control and the fully automated manufacturing process Kyocera achieves an exceptionally high product quality. This means efficiency, durability and reliability, which provides benefits for private users and operators of large-scale solar plants alike.

About Kyocera

Headquartered in Kyoto, Japan, the Kyocera Corporation is one of the world's leading manufacturers of fine ceramic components for the technology industry. The strategically important divisions in the Kyocera Group, which comprises more than 200 subsidiaries (April 1st, 2009), are information and communications technologies, products to increase the quality of life, and environmentally friendly products. The technology group is also one of the largest producers of solar energy systems worldwide.

With a workforce of about 60.000 employees, Kyocera posted net sales of approximately €8.68 billion in fiscal year 2008/2009. The products marketed by the company in Europe include laser printers, digital copying systems, microelectronic components, finceramic products and complete solar systems. The corporation has two independent companies in the Federal Republic of Germany: the Kyocera Finceramics GmbH in Neuss and Esslingen and the Kyocera Mita Deutschland GmbH in Meerbusch.

The company also takes a lively interest in cultural affairs. The Kyoto Prize, one of the most prominent international awards, is presented each year by the Inamori Foundation, once established by Kyocera founder Dr. Kazuo Inamori, to individuals and groups worldwide for their outstanding human achievement (converted at present €370,000 per prize category).

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