



SMA Solar Technology AG – Press Release

**SMA Solar Technology AG is among the best employers in Germany once again**

**Niestetal, April 25, 2013 – In 2013, the Great Place to Work® Institute again honored SMA Solar Technology AG (SMA) in the nationwide "Germany's Best Employer" competition. SMA took 4th place in the category of large companies with over 5,000 employees. In previous years, SMA successfully participated in the competition and even landed in first place in 2011 and 2012.**

"The award underscores that, even during the current challenging times at SMA, values like credibility, respect, fairness and team spirit are still of great importance. We are very proud of this," explains SMA Chief Executive Officer Pierre-Pascal Urbon. "In addition, the results of the employee survey show us where actions have to be taken to improve our corporate culture so that we can better meet future challenges together."

The German Great Place to Work® Institute names the best employers in Germany every year. In addition to an evaluation of the work carried out by human resources departments within the companies, using a so-called culture audit, a comprehensive, anonymous employee survey judges the quality of cooperative work, the leadership, the options for further professional development, and remuneration and workplace satisfaction, among other criteria. Two-thirds of the evaluation and therefore success in the competition are based on the results of the employee survey.

"The award stands for credible management that works with employees fairly and respectfully, for a high degree of identification with their own activity and the company as a whole as well as for a strong team spirit," emphasized Frank Hauser, head of the Great Place to Work® Institute Germany, during the award ceremony on April 24, in Berlin.

This year, a total of over 500 companies applied for a position on the current Best Employer list of the Great Place to Work® Institute Germany and submitted to an independent assessment of their corporate culture. For the assessment, around 100 000 randomly selected employees were anonymously surveyed; alone at SMA there were 2,300 employees.



## **About SMA**

The SMA Group generated sales of €1.5 billion in 2012 and is the global market leader for solar inverters, a key component of all PV plants and, as an energy management group, offers innovative key technologies for future power supply structures. It is headquartered in Niestetal, near Kassel, Germany, and is represented internationally in 21 countries. The Group employs more than 5,000 people worldwide. SMA's broad product portfolio includes a compatible inverter for every type of module on the market and for all plant sizes. The product range includes both inverters for photovoltaic plants connected to the grid as well as inverters for off-grid systems. SMA is therefore able to provide ideal technical inverter solutions for all plant sizes and types. Since 2008, the Group's parent company, SMA Solar Technology AG, has been listed on the Prime Standard of the Frankfurt Stock Exchange (S92) and also in the TecDAX index. In recent years, SMA has received numerous awards for excellence as an employer and achieved first place in the nationwide "Great Place to Work<sup>®</sup>" competition in 2011 and 2012.

## **SMA Solar Technology AG**

Sonnenallee 1

34266 Niestetal

Germany

### **Head of Corporate Communications:**

Anja Jasper

Tel.: +49 561 9522-2805

Presse@SMA.de

### **Press contact:**

Susanne Henkel

Manager Corporate Press

Tel.: +49 561 9522-1124

Fax +49 561 9522-421400

Presse@SMA.de



**Investor Relations contact:**

Julia Damm

Manager Investor Relations

Tel. +49 561 9522-2222

Fax +49 561 9522-2223

IR@SMA.de

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