



Press Release from SMA Solar Technology AG and cdw Stiftungsverbund gGmbH

Dr.-Ing. h. c. Günther Cramer Dies

Company founder, long-standing Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Supervisory Board of SMA Solar Technology AG and founder of the Günther Cramer Foundation, Dr.-Ing. h. c. Günther Cramer, recipient of the German Environmental Award, died on January 6, 2015, at the age of 62 after a long, difficult illness. The Managing Board, Supervisory Board, Works Council and employees of SMA Solar Technology AG and the management and employees of cdw Stiftungsverbund gGmbH mourn the loss of a courageous visionary and pioneer in the global energy transition.

“In Günther Cramer, we have lost an extraordinary person whom we will never forget. As the company founder, CEO and Chairman of the Supervisory Board, he shaped the history of SMA and its employees throughout his entire life. His courage, passion and commitment to the energy transition will always continue to serve as a model and an inspiration to us,” says SMA CEO Pierre-Pascal Urbon.

“Günther Cramer set real standards in his endeavors to advance renewable energy and the industry. To that end, he was also involved at the level of energy policy-making and the energy industry—both in the North Hesse region as well as at the state and national level—with great commitment and success,” explains Volker Wasgindt, Managing Director of cdw Stiftungsverbund. “His environmental and social commitment were unparalleled. Günther Cramer will always have a lasting place in our hearts, not only due to his achievements but also as an exceptional person.”

Günther Cramer foresaw the decentralized, renewable energy supply of the future early on and never deterred from turning his vision into a reality. With great courage, foresight and conviction, he worked with his partners Peter Drews and Reiner Wettlaufer to transform SMA Solar Technology AG from a small engineering firm to a global market and technology leader. Through this work he played an important role in paving the way toward a global and 100 percent decentralized and renewable energy supply.

He continued to devote his efforts to this cause with tremendous passion even after leaving the SMA Managing Board. He founded the Günther Cramer Foundation, which is part of the cdw Stiftungsverbund gGmbH foundation network. The Günther Cramer Foundation works together with the foundations set up by Peter Drews and Reiner Wettlaufer towards the goals of electrification of remote regions in developing countries using renewable energies, and continued development of the North Hesse region.



Günther Cramer helped set in motion and drive a development that has become permanently established around the world: The change in power supply structures from centralized, large-scale conventional power plants to decentralized renewable power generation units. His vision and his life's work will live on at SMA Solar Technology AG and cdw Stiftungsverbund and will be continued with perseverance by their employees, true to his motto: "Let's be realists and attempt the impossible."

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