

Press release

## **New General Manager for Sputnik Italy**

### **Raffaele Salutari new head of Sputnik Engineering Italia S.r.l.**

*Biel, 31 May 2011.* Raffaele Salutari is the new general manager of Sputnik's Italian subsidiary Sputnik Engineering Italia S.r.l. Since 30 May the 47-year old electrical engineer has been managing the twelve-man team in Giussano near Milano. The Italian disposes of long-term experience from managerial positions with different photovoltaics companies.

With regard to his new employer Sputnik Engineering he considered the focus on inverters for grid-tied solar power plants, the high-quality products, and the excellent customer service particularly attractive. "Sputnik ranges amongst the leading inverter manufacturers of the solar industry," says Salutari. "The company has an excellent reputation and produces reliable inverters at an attractive price. I will further improve the position of Sputnik in Italy and will further increase the market shares."

Given the current cutbacks it is particularly important to offer competitive products in Italy. On 1 July a new feed-in law will become effective that will reduce the feed-in compensation every month until the end of 2011. For 2012, two further degression steps are planned. "For large-scale systems, the feed-in tariffs will be reduced by 40 to 50 percent until the end of 2012," says Salutari. However, installations on single-family homes and industrial buildings are effected less by the cutbacks. Regarding the latter, Sputnik Engineering has exactly the right product in its portfolio, the new SolarMax MT series. The devices have outputs of 10 to 15 kilowatts and achieve efficiencies of up to 98 percent.

### **About Sputnik Engineering AG**

Sputnik Engineering AG, a Swiss company, is one of the world's leading manufacturers of grid-connected solar inverters. Under the name SolarMax the company develops, produces and sells inverters for every facility – from photovoltaic systems on single-family homes whose kilowatt output is modest, to the solar power plants whose output is measured in megawatts. The inverter is a key component of the solar plant, transforming the generated direct current into grid-compliant alternating current. 20 years of experience are not only reflected in the Swiss quality, highest efficiency, reliability, and durability of the SolarMax products, but also in the way Sputnik offers its customers excellent international support in the field of after sales, comprehensive warranty services, and intelligent solutions for system monitoring.

Sputnik Engineering is positioned internationally and currently has approx. 330 employees. The company headquarters are located in Biel, sales and distribution are implemented via the subsidiaries in Neuhausen (Germany), Madrid (Spain), Milan (Italy), Saint Priest (France), as well as the branches in Brussels, Prague, and London.

**Publisher**

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