

# PRESS RELEASE

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## POLYSILICON FACILITIES START UP AT WACKER'S BURGHAUSEN SITE

**Burghausen, November 20, 2008 – Additional polycrystalline-silicon production facilities officially came on stream at Wacker Chemie AG's Burghausen site today. The first "Expansion Stage 7" reactors are already up and running. The plant's full nominal capacity of 4,500 metric tons a year is expected to be reached before the end of Q1 2009. WACKER is thus well ahead of its original, very tight schedule. Overall, WACKER is investing €300 million in this expansion stage, thereby creating some 270 new jobs. Expanding output enables WACKER to meet soaring global demand for hyperpure polycrystalline silicon. The new facilities can manufacture material for both the booming solar sector and the semiconductor market.**

During the opening ceremony, Ewald Schindlbeck, WACKER POLYSILICON president, explained the Munich-based chemical company's ambitious investment program to expand its production capacities for hyperpure polycrystalline silicon. The ongoing and planned extensions to WACKER's Burghausen and Nünchritz sites will, by year-end 2011, boost annual polysilicon capacity from the current 10,000 to over 35,000 tons. By 2011, WACKER will have invested almost €2 billion in its capacity expansion program, which began back in 2000.

The current "Expansion Stage 7" is fully linked with the Burghausen site's integrated silicon production system. In this highly integrated material loop, by-products are recycled as starter materials for use elsewhere in the supply chain. This cuts costs, while conserving

resources and strengthening the site's competitiveness. In total, polysilicon expansion will create some 650 new jobs at the Burghausen plant by late 2010.

In his speech, divisional head Schindlbeck thanked everyone involved in the project – both in-house staff and partner firms – for their tremendous efforts. This, he said, was one of the main reasons WACKER can supply its customers with “Expansion Stage 7” polysilicon several months earlier than planned.

*This press release contains forward-looking statements based on assumptions and estimates of WACKER's Executive Board. Although we assume the expectations in these forward-looking statements are realistic, we cannot guarantee they will prove to be correct. The assumptions may harbor risks and uncertainties that may cause the actual figures to differ considerably from the forward-looking statements. Factors that may cause such discrepancies include, among other things, changes in the economic and business environment, variations in exchange and interest rates, the introduction of competing products, lack of acceptance for new products or services, and changes in corporate strategy. WACKER does not plan to update the forward-looking statements, nor does it assume the obligation to do so.*



Polycrystalline silicon from WACKER POLYSILICON. Polysilicon is the starting material for producing both computer chips and high-quality solar cells. (Photo: Wacker Chemie AG)

*Note for editors:*

*Photos are available for download at*  
<http://www.wacker.com/pressreleases>

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**The company in brief:**

WACKER is a globally-active chemical company with some 15,000 employees and annual sales of around €3.78 billion (2007). WACKER has 27 production sites and over 100 sales offices worldwide.

**WACKER SILICONES**

Silicone fluids, emulsions, rubber and resins; silanes; pyrogenic silicas; thermoplastic silicone elastomers

**WACKER POLYMERS**

Polyvinyl acetate and vinyl acetate copolymers in the form of dispersible polymer powders, dispersions and solid resins used as binders for construction chemicals, coatings, adhesives, paints, plasters and nonwovens

**WACKER FINE CHEMICALS**

Fine chemicals, biologics and other biotech products, such as cyclodextrins and cysteine

**WACKER POLYSILICON**

Polysilicon for the semiconductor and photovoltaics industries; solar wafers

**Siltronic**

Hyperpure silicon wafers and monocrystals for semiconductor devices