

**WACKER SCHOTT Solar GmbH**

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## PRESS RELEASE

### WACKER SCHOTT SOLAR EXPANDS SILICON-CRYSTAL PRODUCTION CAPACITY IN JENA

- ◆ NEW FACTORY BUILDING OFFICIALLY HANDED OVER AFTER JUST NINE MONTHS' CONSTRUCTION
- ◆ WACKER SCHOTT SOLAR PLANS A TOTAL CAPACITY OF 275 MEGAWATTS BY LATE 2009
- ◆ PLANNED INVESTMENTS OF OVER €300 MILLION IN THE JENA SITE ARE EXPECTED TO CREATE AT LEAST 700 NEW JOBS BY 2012
- ◆ PRODUCTION FACILITY IS HOME TO THURINGIA'S LARGEST SOLAR ENERGY COMPLEX

Jena, May 27, 2009 – WACKER SCHOTT Solar GmbH, a joint venture between Wacker Chemie AG (Munich) and SCHOTT Solar AG (Alzenau), officially commissioned a new factory building in Jena today. The building will be used to produce solar-grade silicon crystals. After a construction phase of just nine months, Thuringian Minister President Dieter Althaus and SCHOTT AG CEO Udo Ungeheuer handed over the plant's ceremonial key to the managing directors of WACKER SCHOTT Solar. The new

building, which will be fitted with the necessary production equipment in stages, is a key part of WACKER SCHOTT Solar's ongoing program to expand multicrystalline silicon wafer production. Overall capacity should reach 275 megawatts by the end of this year. The company intends to gradually expand its manufacturing capacity to one gigawatt by 2012. Planned investments of over €300 million in the Jena site are likely to create at least 700 new jobs.

The new Jena production facility will rely on time-tested ingot crystallization technology. This involves melting hyperpure silicon in crucibles and casting multicrystalline silicon ingots by directional solidification. Silicon wafers sliced from these ingots are the starting material for manufacturing high-quality solar cells. The two-story building has roughly 13,500 m<sup>2</sup> of floorspace available for production plant.

Dr. Patrick Markschläger and Axel Schmidt, WACKER SCHOTT Solar's two managing directors, were pleased with the new factory's rapid completion: "We built the factory in record time and are now starting to install its equipment. It's particularly worth noting that production continued without interruption throughout the construction period. Today marks an important milestone in the further expansion of WACKER SCHOTT Solar."

Additionally, the roof of the new building features the largest photovoltaic array in Thuringia. The array's solar modules, with a nominal output of 300 kilowatt, were made and supplied by SCHOTT Solar. The installation is operated by PV Meins KG (a partnership which has many WACKER SCHOTT Solar employees as members).

### **WACKER SCHOTT Solar**

WACKER SCHOTT Solar GmbH is a joint venture between Wacker Chemie AG and SCHOTT Solar AG. The company manufactures hyperpure polycrystalline silicon wafers, the starting material for solar cells. WACKER SCHOTT Solar plans to expand its solar-wafer production capacity in stages, reaching about one gigawatt annually by 2012. This makes the joint venture one of the world's largest manufacturers of solar wafers.

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