

Press information

Exemplary quality and proven long product life

Kyocera solar modules at actual 20+ year-old installations still performing with high-efficiency

Kyoto / Neuss, 30 November 2011 – The Japanese technology company Kyocera, one of the leading manufacturers in the field of photovoltaics, is known for the outstanding quality of its solar modules. Two real-life installations in Sweden and Switzerland prove the exemplary product life of Kyocera modules, as both installations have been producing electricity for more than 20 years with only minimal degradation in performance.

Two aspects of major importance for any solar module are energy conversion efficiency and product life. Photovoltaics pioneer Kyocera is especially proud of two real-life examples of extraordinary product life that have maintained continuously high levels of efficiency. In Huvudsta, Sweden (near Stockholm) and in the Swiss canton of Vaud, solar power generating systems using Kyocera solar modules have been producing reliable solar power for more than 20 years each — demonstrating that the company's solar modules possess exceptional durability and reliability.

Pioneering Swiss installation: 20 years on the sunny side

Since 1991, an integrated installation in the garden of a private home in Bassins, Switzerland has been producing 2,800 kilowatt hours per year of solar electricity. After 20 years of operation, the modules have produced more than 55,000 kilowatt hours of

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sustainable, clean energy — with a near-constant efficiency level. The pioneering solar installation was the first private facility in the region to be connected to the power grid. In this system 45 multicrystalline Kyocera modules with an output of 62.7 Wp each are installed — for a total of 2.82 kWp.

20 years is a long time in the fast-pace field of solar energy, which is constantly developing through innovation. Therefore, the efficiency of the modules that were manufactured with the technology of that time is particularly remarkable. To this day, as a pioneer in innovation and technology of solar modules, Kyocera has been able to improve the longevity and efficiency of its modules significantly. As a comparison of the developments over the years, the amount of power generated from the installation required an area of approximately 24m² some 20 years ago, but can now be provided on just over half this area. Furthermore, the cost of a solar power generating system has been reduced to just a quarter of what it was 20 years ago.

Proven long-term solution: Kyocera modules in Sweden

Sweden's first grid-connected photovoltaic system was built in 1984 in Huvudsta, Stockholm. Since its installation, the façade-mounted system has been continuously and reliably providing the residents of an apartment building with environmentally-friendly electricity. The modules were tested by the system owner after an operating period of 23 years, and the results showed that the modules' performance was still reliable — with no significant degradation in energy conversion efficiency. The system consists of 48 polycrystalline Kyocera modules with an output of 44 Wp each — for a total of 2.1 kWp. Therefore, the total annual energy output of approximately

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1,600 kWh is generated — mainly during the up to 18 hours of sunlight per day in the Swedish summer. The electricity generated from solar energy is used entirely in the residential building.

Kyocera is a pioneer in the field of renewable energy. Since 1975, the Japanese technology company has been focusing on the research, development and promotion of solar energy. Kyocera provides solar power products with excellent quality owing to the company's extensive R&D, innovative technology and strict quality control standards.

About Kyocera

Headquartered in Kyoto, Japan, Kyocera Corporation is one of the world's leading manufacturers of fine ceramic components for the technology industry. The strategically important divisions in the Kyocera Group, which is comprised of 208 subsidiaries (as of March 31, 2011), are information and communications technologies, products which increase quality of life, and environmentally friendly products. The technology group is also one of the largest producers of solar energy systems worldwide.

With a global workforce of about 66.000 employees, Kyocera posted net sales of approximately €10.74 billion in fiscal year 2010/2011. The products marketed by the company in Europe include laser printers, digital copying systems, microelectronic components, finceramic products and complete solar power systems. The Kyocera Group has two independent companies in the Federal Republic of Germany: Kyocera Finceramics GmbH in Neuss and Esslingen and Kyocera Mita Deutschland GmbH in Meerbusch.

The company also takes an active interest in cultural affairs. The Kyoto Prize, a prominent international award, is presented each year by the Inamori Foundation — established by Kyocera founder Dr. Kazuo Inamori — to individuals and groups worldwide who have contributed significantly to the scientific, cultural, and spiritual betterment of humankind (converted at present €430.000 per prize category).

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