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PHOTOVOLTAIC INDUSTRIES

Press Release

Liebenfels, 19 September 2019

Europe's largest manufacturer of photovoltaic modules starts production

- Energetica Photovoltaic Industries from Austria is the largest manufacturer of
- high-quality and high-performance photovoltaic modules in Europe.
- One gigawatt of solar module output will be manufactured on fully automated
- production lines at the new plant in Liebenfels (Carinthia).
- Production at Industry 4.0 level started on 17 September.

“Our aim is to produce high-performance, intelligent and visually appealing high-end photovoltaic modules in Austria. Energy self-sufficient, environmentally friendly, sustainable and at market prices that enable us to compete globally even against Asian manufacturers,” says Rene Battistutti, founder and CEO of Energetica Photovoltaic Industries, summarising the company's ambitious plans. Energetica's newly opened gigawatt plant in Liebenfeld, Carinthia, will play a major role in this.

One gigawatt solar module output per year. The new generation of high-performance solar modules has been rolling off the conveyor belts of the fully automated, Industry 4.0-level, state-of-the-art production facility since September 17. This means a possible annual production of more than one gigawatt of solar module output (equating to around five million m² of module surface area). This currently makes the plant in Liebenfels not only the largest production plant for solar modules in Europe in terms of capacity, but also one of the most modern plants in the world. At the extensive 63,000 m² industrial site, around 100 employees manufacture standard photovoltaic modules and solar products for façades, roofs, walls, balconies and gardens at competitive prices and on an industrial scale.

Specialised knowledge from Carinthia in demand the world over. However, craftsmanship is also still in great demand. Energetica's expertise in the production of special modules is highly valued globally. In recent years, it has implemented some prestigious projects, such as the characteristic façade of the KAPSARC (King Abdullah Petroleum Studies and Research Center) in Riyadh (Saudi Arabia). Energetica is also responsible for the “petals” of the Smartflower all-in-one solar system. As a result, the production of special modules will also be expanded while the corresponding expertise will be pooled and developed in-house.

Sustainable, environmentally friendly and energy self-sufficient production. In its fully completed state, Energetica's new gigawatt plant will be a trendsetting zero emission factory. The company's own photovoltaic power plant, with an output of 2.7 MWp (corresponding to the electricity requirement of around 900 households) and an appropriately dimensioned battery storage system, will generate the electricity required to supply module production.

Additionally, by using its own process waste heat and that of the nearby biomass heating plant, all the energy will be generated on the production site itself.



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Own research and development centre. The production plant is linked to a research and development centre. Rene Battistutti says, "This underlines Energetica's technology leadership in the field of high-performance photovoltaic modules." The intention here is not just to conceive and further develop solar technologies and solar user products, for example to license new product technologies, "With our R&D centre, we can use our expertise to support external partners, for example companies from other industrial sectors that want to integrate solar technology into their products. Our aim is to supervise ideas from the first prototypes through to large-scale production."

Robust high-tech for the PV world market. Energetica relies exclusively on high-quality, durable materials for all its product lines. "This enables us to guarantee the sturdy, reliable quality of our products. Technologically, Energetica ranks among the industry's international avant-garde due to its use of solar half-cells, 12-busbar technology and anti-reflective glass." Proprietary patents such as the Energetica Integrated Shadow Protection (e.ISP) aim to provide decision- and purchase-relevant criteria which differentiate the company from the competition. According to Rene Battistutti, "e.ISP is an electronic shading management system which provides a higher power yield in sun and shade compared to conventional modules. This integrated control element also significantly reduces the risk of module damage due to overheating and in turn ensures a longer lifetime for our modules, which is reflected in Energetica's warranties."

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About Energetica Photovoltaic Industries

Energetica is an independent Austrian photovoltaic technology company and in terms of capacity is the largest producer of high-performance photovoltaic modules in Europe. The company has around 25 years of experience and is one of the industry's technology leaders. More than one gigawatt of solar module output is manufactured each year at the site in Liebenfels/Carinthia. That equates to around five million m² of PV module surface area. A proprietary research and development centre is linked to the Industry 4.0-level, state-of-the-art production facility. The plant is a true zero emission factory: among other things, a 2.7 MWp photovoltaic power plant supplies the production process with self-sufficient and climate-friendly electricity. All new production equipment was delivered by rail in an environmentally friendly manner. There are also plans to supply the modules from the company's own private rail siding.