

Press release

Deubach solar park starts operation with nearly 3 megawatts of capacity in the Swabian town of Wettenhausen

Biel, 18. December 2009. Today, the planning company Vento Ludens is handing over the Deubach solar park to the operator, PV Deubach GmbH & Co. KG. The PV system in the Swabian town of Wettenhausen is Vento Ludens' first plant on open land and the largest in the region with a capacity of 2.8 megawatts. Roughly 14,000 crystalline solar modules generate roughly three million kilowatts annually, enough to supply 850 4-person households with power. In addition, the solar plant cuts 18,000 tons of carbon dioxide emissions every year.

When it came to deciding which inverters to use, the managing directors of Vento Ludens, Guido Hedemann and Horst Walz, chose eight SolarMax 330C-SV devices made by Sputnik Engineering AG. Every two to three of the new central inverters feed their power from three SolarMax megawatt stations directly into the medium-voltage grid of the local power utility. Explaining the decision, Hedemann said, "It was Sputnik's price-performance ratio that convinced us." Walz added, "Sputnik Engineering is a well-run, medium-size company. The Sputnik location in Neuhausen is only an hour away from us. Next year we want to realise projects with a total capacity of 25 megawatts using SolarMax inverters.

Inverter stations with a farm-house look

The overall costs of the solar plant in Deubach came to nine million euros. Hans-Martin Herbel, managing director of the operator, expects a profit margin of seven to eight percent. The project is being financed by nine local banks. All the investors are from the region.

Walz explained, "It is our goal to realise our projects on the basis of a consensus with all the participating parties." "That is why we invested some 100,000 euros in various cosmetic measures." This includes a meadow with a wide variety of wild flowers and other plants which will blossom under the solar modules. In addition, the company has panelled the megawatt stations with wood and built pointed gables with copper gutters on the roof. Walz says, "The little huts now fit just as well into the landscape as wood-frame Swabian farm houses."

This also pleases the mayor of the town, Hans Klement, who made of point of praising the open-land system's design and natural greening at its official opening on December 11th. What also impressed him was how the "amazing team realised the plant in only two months." For the 17th of December Klement had already scheduled a special session for the land use planning proceedings in order to facilitate the expansion of the solar plant as quickly as possible. Deubach II will be built at the same location and operate from February 2010 with a total capacity of 1.8 megawatts.

Specifications

Power output	2.830 MW
Modules	Crystalline solar modules by Sovello
Inverters	SolarMax 330C-SV (8x) in three wood-panelled concrete stations
Inclination and orientation	Inclination 28°, South
Commissioning	December 2009
Yield	1040 kWh/kW

About Sputnik Engineering AG

Sputnik Engineering AG was founded in 1991 by Christoph von Bergen and Philipp Müller. Since then it has focused its activities exclusively on the development, sales and maintenance of inverters for grid-connected photovoltaic systems. With the SolarMax series, the company – headquartered in Biel, Switzerland – offers a highly diverse product range of string inverters for single family houses and central inverters for solar power plants. Thanks to its many years of experience and constant optimisation of its products, Sputnik has developed devices distinguished by their state-of-the-art technology, high quality, reliability, maximum yields and very good value for the money. Sputnik Engineering currently has around 240 employees at its Swiss headquarters as well in its subsidiaries in Neuhausen (Germany), Madrid (Spain) and Milan (Italy), and Paris (France).



Editor

Sputnik Engineering AG
Höheweg 85
CH – 2502 Biel
Switzerland
Tel.: +41 (0) 32 346 5600
Fax. +41 (0) 32 346 5609
info@solarmax.com
www.solarmax.com

Media Contact

Press Agency Krampitz
Dillenburger Straße 85
D – 51105 Cologne
Germany
Tel. +49 (0) 221 91249949
Fax +49 (0) 221 91249948
info@pr-krampitz.de

Print free of charge. Voucher copy requested to the media contact. If you have any further inquiries, we would be glad to assist you.