

Press Release

New Environmental Agreement passed by PV CYCLE

Kyocera aims for 85% recycling rate of solar module materials

Kyoto / Neuss, 03 November 2011 - The Japanese technology company Kyocera, one of the leading manufacturers in the field of photovoltaics (PV), has signed on as a full member to the PV CYCLE's new Environmental Agreement. The third Environmental Agreement strengthens the Europe-wide system for the take-back and recycling of PV modules with more stringent self-regulations. The goal of the agreement is to achieve a recycling rate of 85% of materials contained in modules by 2020.

With the signing of the new Environmental Agreement, Kyocera gives a clear sign of its ongoing commitment to sustainability. "The responsible use of natural resources is a concept firmly rooted in the corporate philosophy of Kyocera," stated Kyocera's European President Shigeru Koyama. "By means of our solar modules, we are making a significant contribution to the promotion and use of renewable energies. For us, it goes without saying that we take responsibility, even beyond the product's life cycle, in matters regarding the sustainable recycling and disposal of materials."

PV CYCLE's objective is to create a voluntary industry-wide take-back and recycling programme for end-of-life PV modules.

Currently, the non-profit association represents more than 90% of the European PV market. The financing of the sustainable system is to be borne by the PV manufacturers. By 2020, the association plans to further increase the number of module return stations,

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which at present number more than 170, into a dense network of collection points throughout Europe. The new PV CYCLE Environmental Agreement has now been submitted to the EU Commission with a request for assistance.

Recycling makes PV modules twice as sustainable

By recycling modules at the end of their product life, the solar power industry ensures the sustainability of photovoltaics up through the entire value chain and beyond the actual product life of the modules. In addition to the prevention of waste, by recovering material resources, the amount of energy required to provide raw materials is also reduced — thus sustainably reducing costs and environmental impact. The recycling of silicon solar cells that can be processed into new wafers is particularly important. Also, the aluminium and glass components, as well as the semiconductor materials, can be efficiently recycled to conserve energy.

For more information, see www.kyocerasolar.eu and <http://www.pvcycle.org>

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.

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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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