

Press information

KYOCERA Solar Technical Service Center: Services with a bright future

Kyoto, Japan / Neuss, Germany, October 10, 2016 – The Solar Technical Service Center from Kyocera Fineceramics GmbH, based in Esslingen in the state of Baden-Württemberg, Germany, offers an all-in-one service for managing and optimising solar power installations – including fault analysis and repairs – regardless of manufacturer.

A relatively large number of solar power installations were installed in Germany and Europe up until just a few years ago. However, the number of such plants being installed has dropped significantly ever since an amendment to the EEG (German Renewable Energies Act) came into effect in 2014. As a result, the number of companies specialising in the maintenance of solar plants has also decreased. Kyocera's Solar Technical Service Center has 15 years of experience in maintaining and checking solar installations. It serves customers all across Europe, and has successfully developed and expanded its expertise in the following evaluation procedures for photovoltaic modules regardless of manufacturer.

Electroluminescence imaging

This is a contactless evaluation method that uses special cameras with infrared sensors. It can quickly detect damages such as microscopic fissures that are caused by hail, snow, PID (potential induced degradation) and transportation. This method is particularly suitable for detecting faults or defects that cannot be identified through visual inspection.

Contact:

Kyocera Fineceramics GmbH
Daniela Faust
Manager Corporate Communications
Hammfelddamm 6
41460 Neuss
Germany
Tel.: +49 (0) 2131/16 37 - 188
Fax: +49 (0) 2131/16 37 - 150
Mobil: +49 (0) 175/7275706
daniela.faust@kyocera.de
www.kyocera.eu

Grayling München
Sebastian Paulus
Landwehrstrasse 61
80336 München
Germany
Tel.: +49 (0) 89 411 123 217
sebastian.paulus@grayling.com

Grayling Frankfurt
Elena Lindenzweig
Hanauer Landstr. 147-149
60314 Frankfurt am Main
Germany
Tel.: +49 (0) 69/96 2219 - 66
Fax: +49 (0) 69/96 2219 - 96
elena.lindenzweig@grayling.com

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Thermography

This is also a contactless procedure that uses a special camera to take infrared images of the modules. It is suitable for detecting defective bypass diodes, faulty soldering joints and inactive PV modules or cells. Furthermore, the thermography procedure can check invertors, AC connections, fuses as well as DC wiring and connectors.

I-V curve measurement

I-V curve measurement is a tried-and-tested method of checking the performance of a solar installations. It determines the performance of either individual modules or an entire string. The measurement shows the current or actual capacity under real-world conditions while an analysis detects shading and/or defective modules at the same time.

Kyocera's Solar Technical Service Center has also become an expert in invertors over the years and offers performance checks and grid analyses on site at the customer's premises.

The Solar Technical Service Center offers services including evaluating, repairing and replacing invertors in collaboration with SMA Solar Technology AG (SMA) and Fronius. This collaboration ensures high-quality service when maintaining invertors and replacing defective ones.

"We are looking forward to exchanging information and expertise with SMA and Fronius for the Solar Technical Service Center. Our many years of experience in the solar industry will allow us to make this partnership a great success," says Mr Rafael Schröer, Managing Director of Kyocera Fineceramics GmbH.

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For more information about Kyocera: www.kyocera.eu

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 235 subsidiaries (as of March 31, 2016), are information and communications technologies, products which increase quality of life, and environmentally friendly products. The technology group is also one of the oldest producers of solar energy systems worldwide, with more than 40 years of experience in the industry.

The company is ranked #531 on Forbes magazine's 2016 "Global 2000" listing of the world's largest publicly traded companies.

With a global workforce of over 69,000 employees, Kyocera posted net sales of approximately €11.59 billion in fiscal year 2015/2016. The products marketed by the company in Europe include printers, digital copying systems, microelectronic components, and fine ceramic products. The Kyocera Group has two independent companies in the Federal Republic of Germany: Kyocera Fineceramics GmbH in Neuss and Esslingen and Kyocera Document Solutions 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 approximately €360,000 per prize category).

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