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Richard Kaselowsky  
Ravensberger Straße 10f  
33602 Bielefeld, Germany  
Phone: +49/5 21/59 55 14  
Fax: +49/5 21/59 55 18

**Publisher:**

Hans-Jörg Kaiser

**Editors:**

Bärbel Epp (responsible),  
Dr. Detlef Koemann, Silke Funke,  
Eva Augsten  
Phone: +49/5 21/59 55 48,  
Fax: +49/5 21/59 55 56  
E-mail:  
baerbel.epp@bva-bielefeld.de  
Website: www.sunwindenergy.com

**Freelance authors:**

In Germany: Johannes Bernreuter, Jens-  
Peter Meyer, Joachim Zeitner, Jörn Iken,  
Joachim Berner, Anke Müller  
In India: Jaideep N. Malaviya  
In the USA: David Kaufman  
In China: Sven Tetzlaff, Zhengua Weng

**Advertising:**

Christiane Diekmann,  
Christine Michalsky,  
Yvonne Brinkmann  
Phone: +49/5 21/59 55 47,  
Fax: +49/5 21/59 55 56  
E-mail: Diekmann@bva-bielefeld.de

**Sales & Marketing:**

Uta Haffert, phone: +49/5 21/59 55 88  
Fax: +49/5 21/59 55 07  
E-mail: uta.haffert@bva-bielefeld.de

**Sales & Marketing Manager:**

Urich Fillies

**Production Manager:**

Dieter Lux

**Layout:**

Birgit Tschudi, Horst Krückemeier  
Green Tomato GmbH, Bielefeld, Germany

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**Translation:**

Übersetzungsbüro Hartmann,  
Chemnitz, Germany  
Translationes, Berlin, Germany  
Jeremy Heighway, Leipzig, Germany  
Mark Wigfall, Business English World,  
Clausthal-Zellerfeld



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Photo: Ezinc

**A green oil for the world:** Jatropha is a magic word in many parts of the world where the people are suffering because of the rapidly increasing diesel prices. The robust bush even prospers on waste land and its cultivation creates local labour.

Page 152

**Time of rapid expansion:**

This year's world map of the PV industry shows 151 cell and module manufacturers in 32 countries. And the period of new businesses being established in not over yet.

Page 108

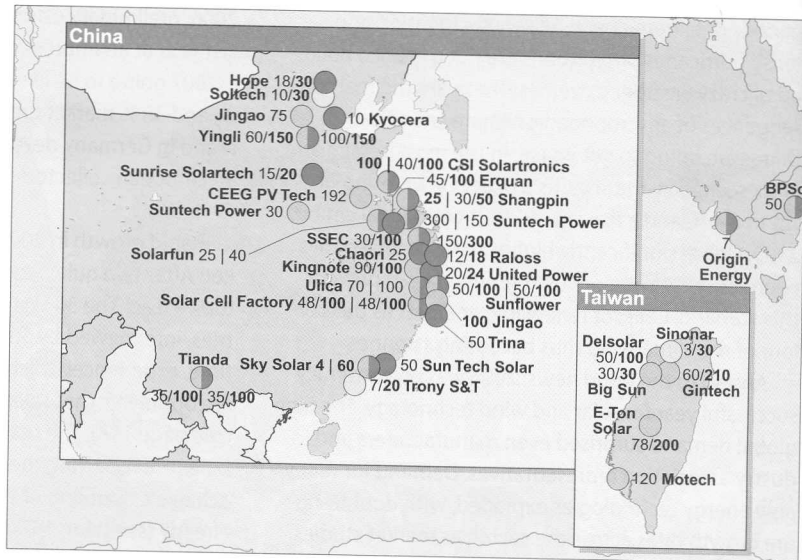


Figure: Eilers-Media



Photo: Solar23

**Challenging the diesel gensets:** After two quiet years, the international PV off-grid market returned to former strengths in 2006. The system suppliers are expecting further accelerated growth this year, as revealed by a survey among 30 companies from around the world.

Page 118



**Growing markets worldwide:** Thermosiphon systems for solar-powered water heating are in demand. *Sun & Wind Energy* contacted the relevant companies worldwide to ask their opinions on market developments. The turnover expectations of the manufacturers were far exceeded last year.

Page 28

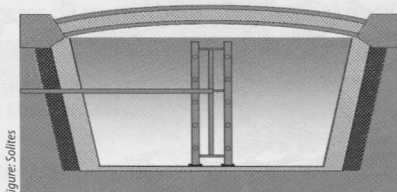


Figure: Solites

**Seasonal storage:** The German government funded nine research and demonstration plants for solar assisted district heating with seasonal thermal energy storage in the last ten years. Two new plants are under construction. *S&WE* has a close look at the German experience with these projects.

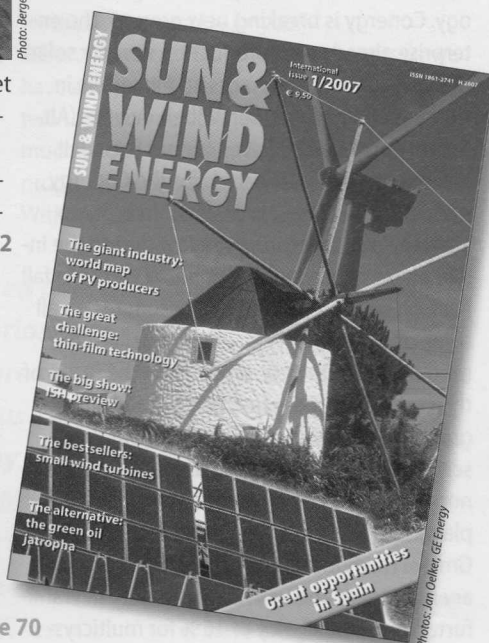
Page 48

**Solutions for both north and south:** The market for manufacturers of small wind turbines is growing extremely rapidly and is attracting new specialists from the renewable energy sector. The variety of the models also provides the smaller suppliers with market niches.

Page 142

**Renewables in Spain:** The growing dependency on energy imports in Spain is recognised as being a problem across all political camps. Renewable energies provide an answer to these challenges. The Spain Special in *S&WE* analyses the current situation on the sectors of photovoltaics, solar thermal and wind energy from the industrial point of view.

Page 70



■ **Review**

- 6 Conergy plans mammoth PV factory
- 8 Solar thermal: Accelerating growth
- 10 Phocos AG: Close to the customer
- 12 Su-Kam Power Systems: Only a phone call away
- 14 International fairs

■ **Ocean Energy**

- 20 Wave and tidal power

■ **Solar Thermal**

- 28 Thermosiphon: Growing markets worldwide
- > 42 ISH 2007: Showcase exhibition for renewables
- 48 Seasonal storage – a German success story
- 60 Drain back: Full protection with empty collectors

■ **Solar Energy**

- 66 Training in the land where pepper grows

■ **Spain Special**

- 70 Failed targets newly set
- 74 Solar thermal: Solar obligations forcing upturn
- 78 Solar cooling combats summer heat
- 80 PV in Spain: Large systems for a presently small market
- 88 Wind energy: Skid marks in the boom
- 90 Interview with Jordi Torres, Ecotècnia

■ **Photovoltaics**

- > 92 Thin-film producers: Breaking out of the niche
- > 108 World map of industry: Time of rapid expansion
- 118 Off-grid systems: Challenging the diesel gensets
- 127 Invest in Germany: Skill-set fusion
- 128 Sunlabob: Solar home systems for rent
- 134 Tracking systems: The sun-soaked south

■ **Wind Energy**

- > 142 Small wind turbines: Solutions for both north and south
- 150 Gearbox: Turbulence in the market

■ **Biomass**

- > 152 Jatropha: A green oil for the world

■ **Department**

- 40 Order a free copy
- 157 Subscription Service
- 158 Directory