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Richard Kaselowsky
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Publisher:

Hans-Jörg Kaiser

Editors:

Bärbel Epp (responsible),
Dr. Detlef Koenemann, Silke Funke,
Andreas Schlumberger
Phone: +49/5 21/59 55 48,
Fax: +49/5 21/59 55 56
E-mail: be@sunwindenergy.com
Website: www.sunwindenergy.com

Freelance authors:

In Germany: Johannes Bernreuter,
Jens-Peter Meyer, Joachim Zeitner,
Jörn Iken, Joachim Berner, Anke Müller,
Ina Röpcke, Claudia Hilgers
In India: Jaideep N. Malaviya
In China: Sven Tetzlaff, Zhengua Weng

Advertising:

Christiane Diekmann, Christine Michalsky,
Yvonne Brinkmann, Sandra Waschkowitz
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

Advertising sales Italy:

Quaini Pubblicità, Linda Clerici
Phone: +39/02/39216180
Fax: +39/02/39217082
E-Mail: info@quaini-pubblicita.it

Advertising sales North America:

McNeill Group, Scott Sward, Philip Miller
Phone: +1/800/394/5157 ext. 16
Fax: +1/215/321/9636
E-Mail: ssward@mcneill-group.com,
pmiller@mcneill-group.com

Advertising sales China:

Sven Tetzlaff
Phone: +86/571/28028858
Fax: +86/571/28028860
E-Mail: mail@sventetzlaff.de

Sales & Marketing Manager:

Ulrich Fillies

Production Manager:

Dieter Lux

Layout:

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

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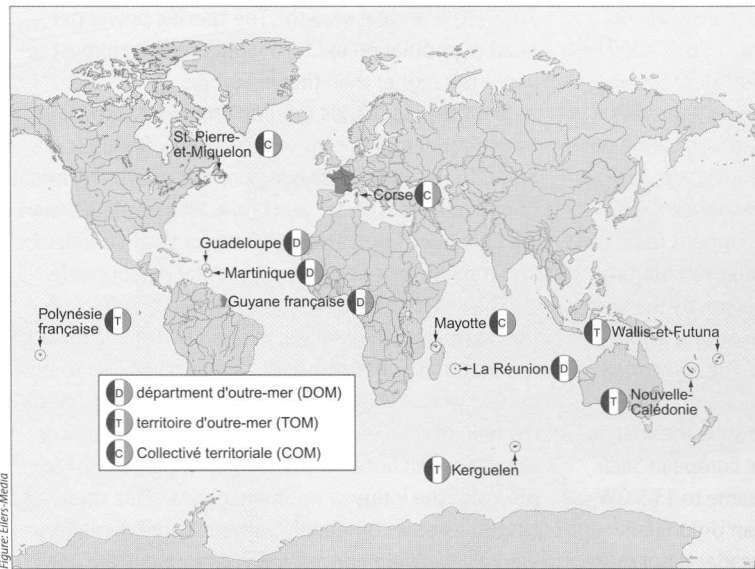
Translation:

Übersetzungsbüro Hartmann,
Chemnitz, Germany
Translations, Berlin, Germany
Jeremy Heighway, Leipzig, Germany
Mark Wigfall, Business English World,
Clausthal-Zellerfeld, Germany
Craig Morris, Freiburg, Germany

High frequencies and skewed optics: For solar absorbers to provide heat properly, metal plates and tubes have to be welded together well. It does not matter whether the technique is based on ultrasound or lasers. *Sun & Wind Energy* provides an overview of the technologies and manufacturers. **Page 28**



Photo: Bärbel Epp



France's ambitious goals: If you take a differentiated look at the French solar market, split into the areas of metropolitan France and the overseas departments, you will see that the latter are in the lead. Now the French government sets ambitious goals across the board. Photovoltaics is still in the development phase, in solar thermal the many years of endeavour to ensure quality of production and installation are now bearing fruit. **Page 94**



Photo: Gebt, Schmid

Turnkey and growing: The times when companies cobbled together their own PV production facilities are over. The number of customers ordering turnkey lines has increased dramatically; larger and larger factories are en vogue. When will the first gigawatt factory be built? **Page 128**



Photo: Jörn Iken

New gold rush ahead: Plenty of sunshine, political support and increasing energy demand – the circumstances are certainly in favour of a solar boom in California. The photovoltaic industry is waiting in the wings, a new programme has been designed to get it to the top. The solar thermal market still is completely underdeveloped, but a new funding legislation is set to change this. **Page 66, 112**

On the way to a mass market: Just a few years back, you still needed a detective to find solar houses. In most cases, they were private houses with which environmentalists, architects or solar experts sought to fulfil a dream. In the meantime, ready-to-occupy homes are on offer at competitive prices.

Page 16



Photo: Solifer / Energetikhaus 100

■ **Review**

- 6 Bad news for photovoltaics in Germany
- 8 Solar thermal world market
- 10 International fairs

■ **Solar Architecture**

- 16 Solar houses: on the way to a mass market

■ **Solar Thermal**

- 28 Absorber production: high frequencies and skewed optics
- 40 Collector certificates: label puzzle
- 42 ESTEC conference: bright future
- 50 Vacuum tubes: China catches up on technology
- 62 Interview: China is looking for Europe
- 66 California Special: new legislation for solar thermal

■ **Solar Energy**

- 72 Financing of renewable energy projects
- 78 Solar India 2007: policy making in Bangalore

■ **Intersolar**

- 82 Around the world of solar technology
- 88 China in a solar and stock market fever

■ **France Special**

- 94 France ambitious goals
- 102 Photovoltaics in the development phase
- 106 Solar thermal energy: growing as planned

■ **California Special**

- 112 New gold rush ahead
- 118 Bonanza for photovoltaics

■ **Photovoltaics**

- 122 Solarworld's »lucky deal« in California
- 127 Company Profile: Sputnik Engineering AG
- 128 PV factories: turnkey and growing
- 140 22nd EU PVSEC: much, more, Milan
- 148 Concentrator systems: sophisticated optics
- 156 South Korea: PV boom in the tiger state
- 162 Inverter technology: goodbye to the transformer

■ **Wind Energy**

- 174 Fair preview Husumwind, Germany
- 180 A fresh breeze in France
- 182 Wind power companies: shares with substance

■ **Biomass**

- 188 Wheat, maize and sugarcane: bioethanol production worldwide

■ **Department**

- 172 Order a free copy
- 196 Subscription Service
- 197 Directory



Photo: Repower

Shares with substance: The wind power companies listed on the stock exchange have had a successful year. Share prices have risen strongly. The biggest rise has been achieved by Repower Systems AG shares, which rose while Suzlon successfully tried to outbid Areva with the aim to take over the German company. Wind power has become a globally operating industry.

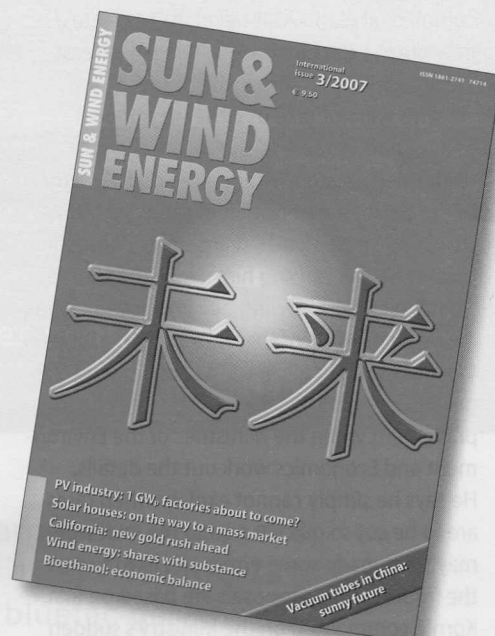
Page 182



Photo: ACE

Foodstuff or energy source: The worldwide demand for bioethanol in the transport sector is growing. The rapid expansion of bioethanol production is driving up the prices of wheat, maize and sugarcane worldwide. On the future of bioethanol production there are several questions still unanswered. This too for the choice of raw materials: ethically and ecologically.

Page 188



The future for solar thermal technology in China looks bright: This is conveyed by the two Chinese characters on the front cover. Wei Lei stands for »the future« and always means a positive, a nice future.

Page 50