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Publisher:

Prof. Dr. Bernhard von Schubert

Editors:

Dr. Detlef Koenemann (responsible),
Silke Funke, Eva Augsten
Phone: +49/5 21/59 55 48,
Fax: +49/5 21/59 55 56
E-mail: sf@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
In USA: Michael Griffin, Lisa Cohn,
Elisa Wood, Anke Wienand

Advertising:

Christian Krosse, Yvonne Brinkmann,
Christine Michalsky, Christiane Diekmann,
Sandra Rambow,
Phone: +49/5 21/59 55 81,
Fax: +49/5 21/59 55 56
E-mail: ck@sunwindenergy.com

Sales & Marketing:

Urich Fillies (Manager)
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: 0086/13777476258 (German)
0086/13777467305 (Chinese)
Fax: +86/571/28028860
E-Mail: mail@sventetzlaff.de

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Birgit Tschudi, Horst Krückemeier
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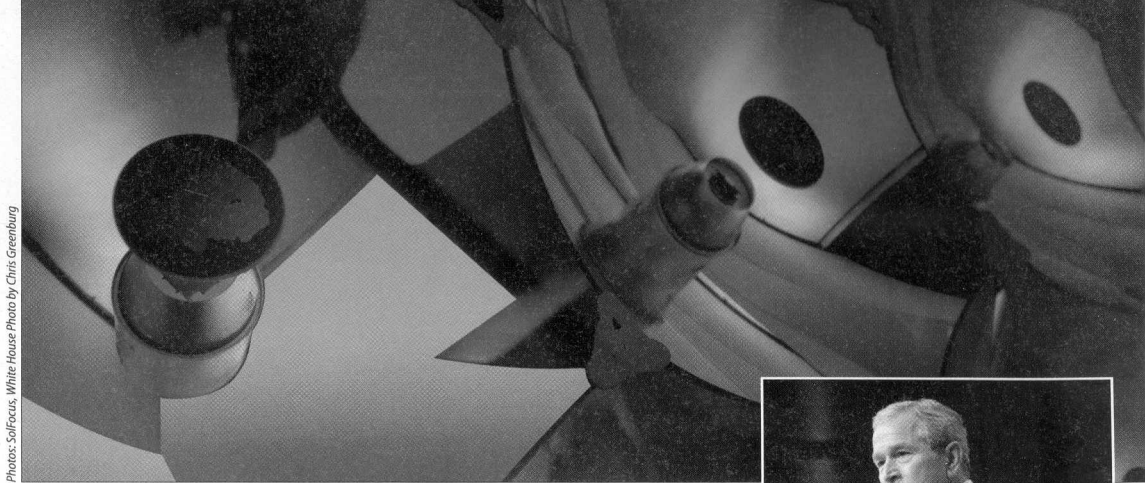
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Translation:

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



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WIREC 2008 in Washington: For the first time ever, the United States with its foreign ministry, the State Department, at the helm, set out to host an international renewable energy conference that had over 7,000 key ministerial and business stakeholders from 150 countries flock to the U.S. capitol early this March.

Page 30

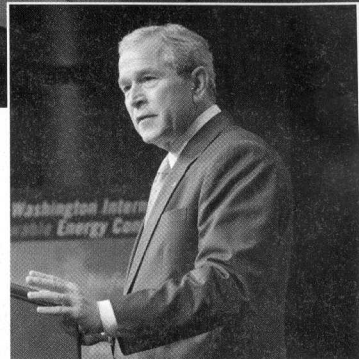


Photo: Motech

Dr. Yuan-Hai Simon Tso, head of the Taiwanese solar cell manufacturer Motech Industries. Inc., spoke with *Sun & Wind Energy* about his company's future plans and the development of the photovoltaic sector.

Page 112

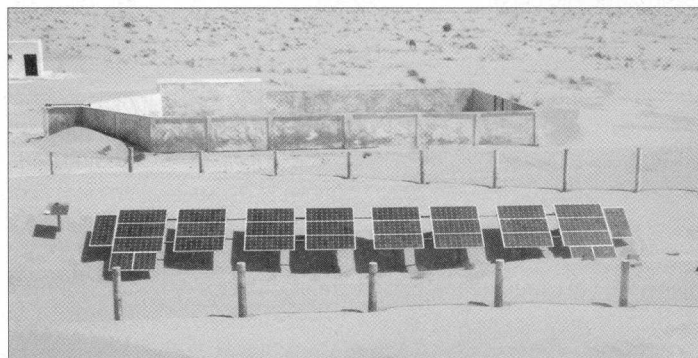


Photo: ENPD/Schoett-Solar

Stand-alone solutions remain a niche market. Off-grid solar power systems are well suited to the electrification of remote regions. Nevertheless, the market for stand-alone solutions has been in stagnation for years and is struggling with bureaucracy and difficult conditions of tender.

Page 130



Photo: Fotovoltaica IBC

The Iberian peninsula offers outstanding conditions for renewable energy sources. Up to now, however, Spain has not been taking advantage of all its opportunities. It is only in recent years that new legal regulations have accelerated the growth of both solar and wind power. At Genera 2008 the mood was optimistic.

Pages 84, 96, 100

Solar controller market

2008: Graphical displays with diagrams of hydraulics are now taken for granted with solar controllers. A growing number of manufacturers are including them to facilitate operation and the setting of parameters for users. The latest innovation is the use of touch screens.

Page 74



Photo: Steca



Graphic: CANWEA

Canada could turn into a model country in terms of wind energy utilisation: There are vast expanses of land, and the abundantly available hydroelectric power could compensate for the fluctuations in the amount of wind power supplied to the grid. Although market development is stagnating at present, the governments of the provinces have ambitious goals. **Page 138**

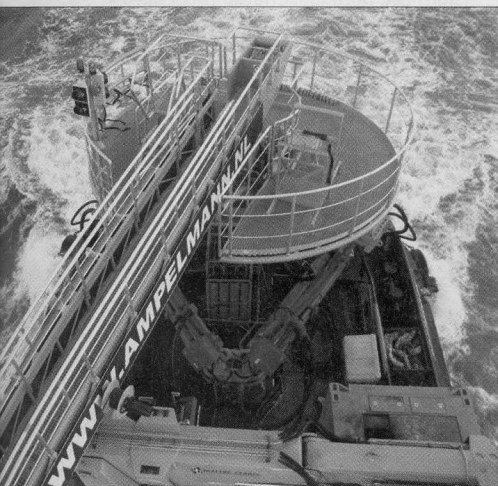


Photo: Ampelmann

Offshore development is about to enter a new round in terms of technology. Many countries only have limited potential for erecting near-shore wind farms. In the next five to ten years we can thus expect that wind power will also be developed in areas of sea further from the coast. This will require renewed thinking, also about access systems. **Page 146**

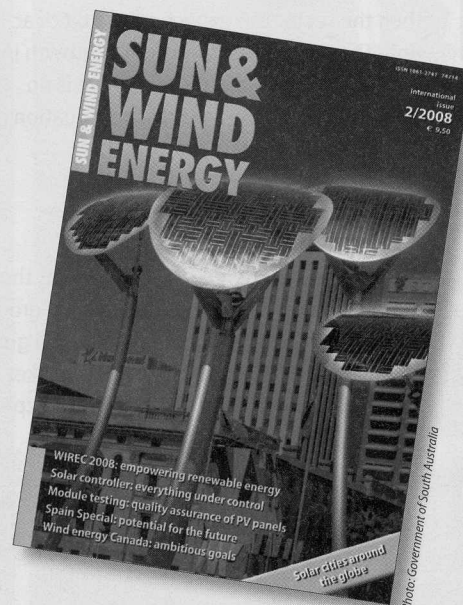


Photo: Government of South Australia

A solar city intends to do more than »just« use solar heat and solar power. Energy saving, energy efficiency and renewable energies are the tools of choice for population centres to protect the climate, boost the regional economy and become independent of foreign oil and gas suppliers. **Page 18**

■ **Review**

- 6 Bright prospects for PV and solar thermal
- 10 Incentive schemes worldwide
- 12 International fairs

■ **Solar Architecture**

- 18 Solar cities: being green is a selling point

■ **Market Watch USA**

- 30 WIREC 2008: empowering renewable energy
- 44 Intersolar North America starts this year

■ **CSP Technology**

- 46 Widespread use of CSP in the future?
- 54 Concentrated solar power in China

■ **Market Watch China**

- 58 German technology for the Olympic Village
- 60 New businesses in China: opportunities and challenges

■ **Solar Thermal**

- 64 Cool climate from the scorching sun
- 74 Solar controller market 2008

■ **Spain Special**

- 84 Potential for the future
- 96 Genera 2008: great interest despite smaller space
- 100 Thin film technology: waiting for the breakthrough

■ **Photovoltaics**

- 104 Module test: X-raying every cell
- 109 Thin film modules – the goalposts keep moving
- 112 Interview with Dr. Yuan-Hai Simon Tsuo from Motech
- 114 Laser systems – precision and speed
- 120 Thin film is self-assured
- 124 Second International Conference on Solar Photovoltaic Investments
- 130 Stand-alone solutions remain a niche market

■ **Wind Energy**

- 134 Of kites and rotating cylinders
- 138 Canada – wind and water
- 142 EWEC 2008: gathering in Brussels
- 144 Global upswing
- 146 Access systems: going where it's rough
- 150 Floating platforms for deep water

■ **Biomass**

- 152 Sustainable Energy Days: carrots, sticks and tambourine
- 154 Renewable heating: setting an example

■ **Department**

- 132 Order a free copy
- 156 Subscription Service
- 157 Company Directory