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In-line quality assurance: checking cells during production

Cell production is a complex process that has to be constantly monitored. The throughput of modern production systems has risen dramatically. As a result, monitoring requires the use of fast, straightforward in-line systems that can be integrated into the automated process. **Page 126**

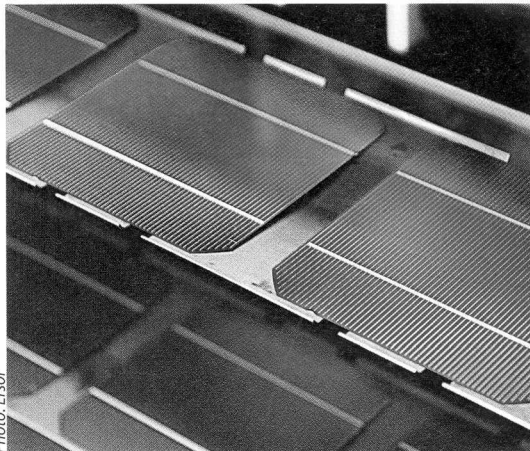


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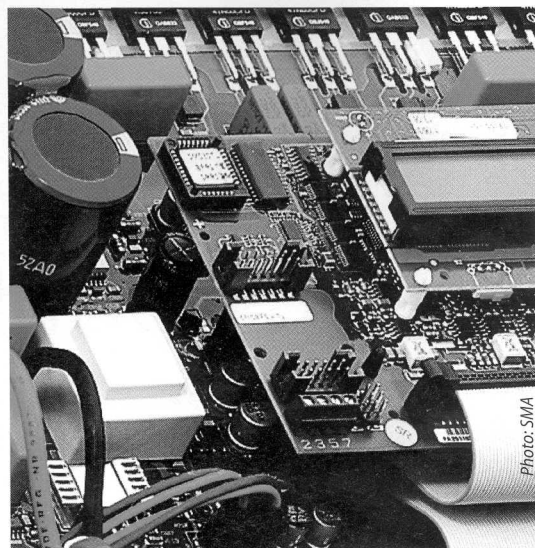


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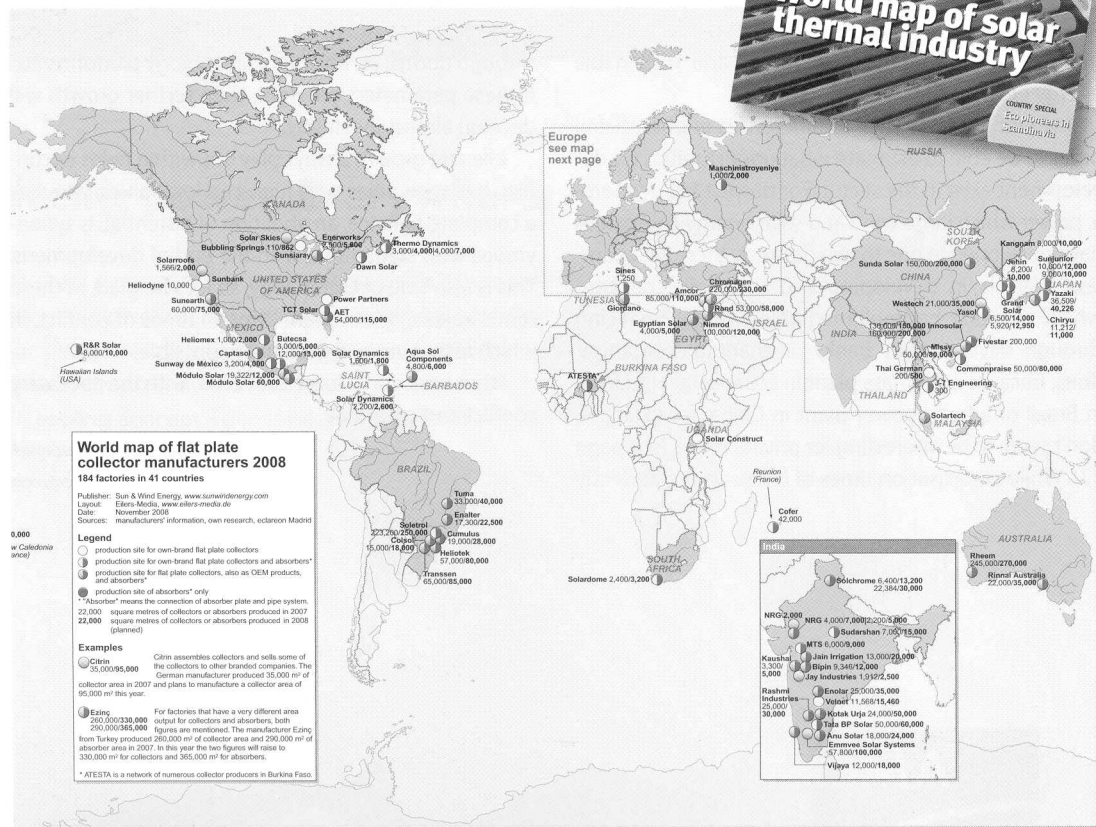
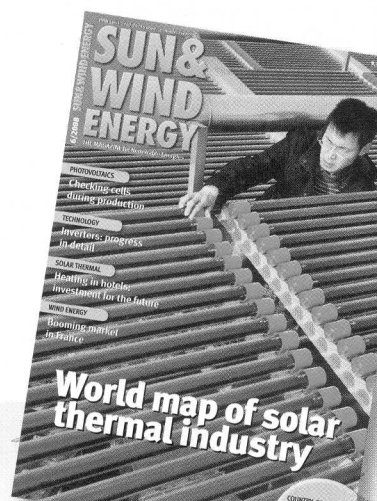
Inverters – Progress in detail:

Devices for use with thin-film modules are now available from almost all inverter manufacturers. Today, manufacturers are tending to focus on specific improvements. **Page 116**

Solar thermal world map:

A good investment climate and strongly growing demand are spurring on the international collector industry. These are the results from probably the largest public study of the global solar thermal industry so far. S&WE wrote to around 320 collector manufacturers around the world. This survey formed the basis of the market analysis and the three overview maps on **Pages 66, 78**

Photo: Jan Oelker,
Graphic: Eilers Media



Heating in hotels:

Solar thermal systems for hotels are considered a market with a future. *Sun & Wind Energy* conducted a survey of companies in this sector to see what their experience has been. It turns out that the high upfront costs scare off a lot of hotel operators even though the return on investment is quick.

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Photo: Eziñç



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On the rise – solar energy in the Land of Opportunity:

Long sun shine hours, an Investment Tax Credit (ITC) that has just been prolonged and a new President who encourages renewable energies: All this makes the basic conditions for PV and solar thermal energy in the United States ideal.

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Photo: Solarworld



Rotor blades under scrutiny:

A growing series of rotor blade failures has been shaking the branch for some time now. To spare the manufacturers and operators further avoidable costs, the test methods are to be investigated and improved.

Page 166



Photo: G&L Rotorstechnik

Looking for alternative sources of biomass:

"Climate change" and "local feedstocks" were the buzzwords at the second annual „Energy from Biomass and Waste Expo and Conference" in Pennsylvania. Speakers focused on the challenges of using biomass when climate change alters ecosystems, altering the reliability of feedstocks.

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Photo: Reid Smith