PRESS INFORMATION

Leading Experts discuss future of Photovoltaics / solar industry at Australia – Germany Solar Future Forum on World Environment Day

“Turbo for solar cells”: Australian and German researchers work jointly on lowering production costs and new world record in efficiency of solar cells – development of third generation solar cells predicted by 2026 // World-leading expert Prof Martin Green sees complementary Australian - German cooperation as a role model for turning high-level innovation into application

Berlin, World Environment Day, June 5th 2012 – The Australian Ambassador to Germany, Mr Peter Tesch today opened the first Australia – Germany Solar Future Forum at the Australian Embassy in Berlin. In the run-up to the solar industry trade event, Intersolar, taking place from 13 -15 June in Munich, leading solar energy experts discussed future trends, opportunities and challenges in solar photovoltaics. The forum opened with a keynote address by the world leading expert in photovoltaics, Professor Martin Green, Executive Research Director ARC Photovoltaics Centre of Excellence, School of Photovoltaic and Renewable Energy Engineering, University of New South Wales in Sydney, Australia. He outlined future developments in PV, identified solutions for key cost drivers and showed future perspectives of an upcoming third generation solar cell setting new standards in efficiency. “Only global collaboration between leading countries with complementary skills will accelerate the pace to meet the set environmental and economic targets for a clean energy future“, said Professor Martin Green at the first Australia – Germany Solar Future Forum on World Environment Day.

Dr. Klaus Lips, Head of the Energy Materials In-Situ Laboratory Berlin (EMIL), Helmholtz-Zentrum Berlin für Materialien und Energie presented a joint research project designed to increase efficiency in photovoltaics. A joint Australian - German research team is working on a “turbo for solar cells” – experimenting with upconversion of the solar spectrum for improved PV energy conversion.

Dr. Markus Glatthaar, Head of Department, Novel Processes, Division of Solar Cells - Development and Characterization, Fraunhofer-Institute for Solar Energy Systems ISE outlined ways of reducing costs for mass production for future solar cell and module development.

A panel discussion “Quo Vadis Solar Energy” featuring the scientists and Nicola Watkinson, Consul General and Senior Trade and Investment Commissioner, Western Europe, Australian Trade Commission, emphasized the important role of international research cooperation between leading, technologically advanced nations and argued for a joint roadmap to foster further collaborations. The panel discussion participants agreed that the latest research on cost reduction and efficiency will set new milestones for the future competiveness of solar energy as a key sector within the field of renewable energies.

”Leading Australian and German researchers have joined forces to develop innovative, clean technology applications for the future, and to face the global challenges of our time. Australia and Germany are leaders in the field of solar energy. The joint research projects presented here today at the first Australia – Germany Solar Future Forum are great examples of increased scientific collaborations and strategic partnerships between two countries looking towards a clean energy future,” said the Australian Ambassador to Germany, Peter Tesch.

Press contact:

Sarah Weiser

MMK Markt- & Medien-Kommunikation
Bell Pottinger - MMK GmbH

Fon: +49 (0) 40 318 04 138
Fax: +49 (0) 40 318 04 199
Mail: Sarah_Weiser@mmk-pr.de