

Financial restructuring at Xolar GmbH



Restructuring proceedings have been started against the Austrian company Xolar GmbH. The company was taken over on 26 January by Greiner Technology & Innovation GmbH. At the same time Greiner Technology also took over the companies Solution and Sun Master Energiesysteme in order to get into the solar thermal market.

The new owners could not achieve a majority among the creditors of Xolar GmbH for an out-of-court settlement.

Current business operations are said to be unaffected by the financial difficulties. There are currently 160 orders being processed, which can be fulfilled on time with the existing structures.



The headquarters of Xolar GmbH in Eberstalzell, Austria

Photo: Greiner

Hydro sells aluminium pipes to Solarbayer and Hewalex



The Norwegian industrial group Norsk Hydro ASA has sold its first aluminium pipes for solar absorbers. The customers are Germany's Solarbayer GmbH and the Polish collector manufacturer Hewalex.

It was only in December that Hydro received the test results for its aluminium pipes from the test centre SPF Rapperswil in Switzerland. The institute had investigated the corrosion resistance of the pipes in a simulation at high temperatures. Hydro is now sure that the pipes will easily be able to survive 20 years in a flat plate collector.

Last summer, Hydro appeared at the Intersolar for the first time with its aluminium bands. Hydro offers vari-

ous bands for the manufacture of absorbers for flat plate collectors and for the production of mirrors for process heat plants and solar thermal power stations.

In more and more cases, aluminium is replacing expensive copper as the material for the absorber sheeting. But the absorber tubes, which transport the heat away from the collector, are usually still made of copper. With the copper price continuing to rise, the pressure on the collector manufacturers to look for alternative materials for the pipes is also increasing. As an additional incentive, making both components from the same material also makes them easier to join together.

Termicol Energía Solar enters Romanian market



The Spanish system provider Termicol Energía Solar has just completed and put into operation its first big installation in Romania. The building that was endowed with solar collectors is "Sf. Andrei Community Services Centre" in Ploiesti, 60 km north of Bucharest. The centre offers free services for disabled children, as nursing/attendance, daycare, counseling and so on.

The installation provides warm water for the community centre; it includes 64 collectors of type Termicol T20S which are mounted in two solar systems of 32, each system with a solar station and two hot water tanks of 3,000 litres. Warm water is delivered by a fresh water station.

During the first days of operation the installation performed well at sunny days with outside air temperatures below 0 °C. The temperature in the water tanks already reached about 60 °C.

Swiss heat multi-family dwellings using the sun



In addition to the eight-family solar house in Oberburg, Switzerland, the engineers from Jenni Energietechnik AG want to build two further multi-family houses that will also be heated using only solar energy.

As the engineers have now had three years to evaluate the data from the first system, they are now able to dimension the solar installations more accurately – which saves money. In the first building, large reserves were built into the system in order to make sure that the solar equipment delivers enough heating energy throughout the winter. Now it can be seen that the system is in fact overdimensioned by a factor of two. For each of the new houses the Jenni engineers are planning a collector area of "only" 180 m² and a storage volume of 120 m³. According to Jenni, the solar system costs as much as "a good heat pump heating system".

The owner of the company Josef Jenni wants to offer the construction plans to interested home builders for a small fee so that the project finds as many emulators as possible.

Even in winter, the solar system reliably supplies the residents of this multi-family house with heating.

Photo: Jenni Energietechnik

