

Media release

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Sites decision: Meyer Burger wants to establish its own production of solar cells and solar modules in Saxony-Anhalt and Saxony

- Meyer Burger selects traditional solar sites in Bitterfeld-Wolfen (Saxony-Anhalt) and Freiberg (Saxony) for the establishment of production facilities
- Use of existing infrastructure is aimed at saving resources - skilled workers and competencies available in the regions
- Ramp-up plans: production start in the first half of 2021 with 400 MW solar cells and 400 MW solar modules, expansion to 5 GW planned
- Use of locations requires successful implementation of capital increase

Meyer Burger Technology Ltd (SIX Swiss Exchange: MBTN) has chosen locations in the “Solar Valley” in Bitterfeld-Wolfen (Saxony-Anhalt) and in Freiberg (Saxony) to start its own solar cell and module production. “We are looking forward to revitalising two of the most traditional solar locations in Europe and creating new jobs,” said Gunter Erfurt, CEO of Meyer Burger. “The fact that we are able to use existing infrastructures and the high level of expertise in the regions is a conscious strategic decision that will enable us to achieve short ramp-up times and high product quality”.

A team of internal and external production specialists evaluated the conditions at the sites and rated them as very favourable. In Bitterfeld-Wolfen, Meyer Burger rents buildings of the former solar cell manufacturer Sovello on a long-term and cost-effective basis. Initially, the buildings will cover an area of 27,000 square metres; additional space can be rented for extensions if required. Meyer Burger will use its latest production equipment there to manufacture highly efficient solar cells using the proprietary heterojunction technology.

The high-efficiency cells are further processed into SmartWire modules in Freiberg, almost 150 kilometres away. “With Meyer Burger, there is once again a supplier of technologically leading solar cells Made in Europe,” said Gunter Erfurt. “Almost all solar modules manufactured in Europe today contain cells that come from Asia.”

Meyer Burger will manufacture the patent-protected SmartWire modules in a production facility of the former Solarworld Group. To date, it is the largest and most modern plant of its kind in Europe. With an area of around 19,000 square metres, it also offers optimal conditions for the conversion and adaptation of the existing infrastructure and the highly automated module production lines. Today, the plant has an annual nominal capacity of more than 600 MW, which can be increased to more than 800 MW with new technologies. In addition, Meyer Burger is acquiring the modern logistics and distribution centre (14,000 square metres) at the former Solarworld site in Freiberg, which will provide the infrastructure for the establishment of an efficient distribution structure. The parties have agreed with the insolvency administrator, Christoph Niering, not to disclose the purchase price.

The capacities for the start of production in the first half of 2021 will be 400 MW per year in solar cell production and 400 MW in module production. Further expansion is then planned up to 5 GW. Meyer Burger intends to produce next-generation solar modules that have a higher output per area and a significantly higher energy yield compared to the current standard technology.

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Takeover of sites planned subject to completion of planned capital increase

The development of the two locations by Meyer Burger requires the successful implementation of the planned ordinary capital increase announced on 19 June 2020, with targeted gross proceeds of CHF 165 million. For this, the company requires the approval of the shareholders at the Extraordinary General Meeting on 10 July 2020. The transaction is expected to be completed by the end of July. Furthermore, the creditors' meeting of Solarworld Industries GmbH still has to approve the purchase agreement of the Freiberg sites.

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About Meyer Burger Technology Ltd

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Meyer Burger is a leading and globally active technology company specializing in innovative systems and production equipment for the photovoltaic (solar) industry. As an internationally renowned premium brand, Meyer Burger offers its customers in the PV industry dependable precision products and innovative solutions for the manufacture of high-efficiency solar cells and solar modules.

The comprehensive product range is complemented by a worldwide service network with spare and wearing parts, consumables, process know-how, maintenance and after-sales service, training courses and additional services. Meyer Burger is represented in the respective key markets in Europe and Asia and has subsidiaries and its own service centers in China, Germany, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Switzerland, Singapore, Taiwan and the USA. The registered shares in Meyer Burger Technology Ltd are listed at the SIX Swiss Exchange (Ticker: MBTN).

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