

Press information for the press conference on 22 November in Bitterfeld-Wolfen

Successful re-start of silicon production facility

After 18 months of short-time work and production shutdown the silicon production facility in Bitterfeld is manufacturing silicon again. As the two managing directors Dr Friedrich Schaaff and Dr Hilmar Tiefel “are convinced that the production facility in Bitterfeld offers excellent technological standards for the continued production of economically viable silicon and other related silicon products,” they intensively looked for investors after the discontinuation of silicon production at PV Crystalox.

Together with an external investor and a strategic reorientation Silicon Products Bitterfeld GmbH & Co. KG (SPB), which is a 100% subsidiary of Silicon Products Research Engineering Production GmbH (SPG), has been in business since 29 June 2013.

“In recent months intensive research and development has been carried out despite short-time work at our company in order to increase our competitiveness and push ahead new developments. Particularly in the reduction of the use of energy and resources as well as in the enhancement of silicon quality we have been able to achieve significant improvements,” Dr Friedrich Schaaff emphasizes.

After the reorientation Silicon Products now operates in the following areas:

- production of silicon for the photovoltaic and semiconductor market and related products using the existing production facility
- sale of know-how and engineering services in the areas of silicon production, chlorosilane processing and photovoltaics
- research and development in the area of Siemens processes for the production of competitive silicon with particular focus on cost reduction and the quality enhancement of silicon

Based on their longstanding production expertise the engineers and natural scientists of Silicon Products have developed a second generation of a converter, which was already successfully tested at the restart of the plant. As a result it was possible to demonstrate significant energy savings of 12% and an increased conversion factor of more than 30%. This know-how of our engineers is in worldwide demand and is marketed internationally.

In order to further facilitate the implementation of innovations in the future, Silicon Products is working on further R&D projects in co-operation with universities and institutes in Saxony-Anhalt and other research institutes in Germany.

At present the company employs 42 staff. It is planned to increase this number to 50 in the near future. For this reason, qualified natural scientists and engineers are required.

Only two months after being taken over production at the silicon plant was successfully restarted. Several market segments for the marketing of our high-quality silicon have been identified. The successful restart of the plant was an important step for the continuation of business operations in Bitterfeld-Wolfen. The innovative developments and equally positive market developments for the years 2014 and 2015 have bolstered the management's decision to further invest in Bitterfeld.

For further information please visit our website: www.silicon-products-gmbh.com

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