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'Powered by the Sun': DLR to host the 15th SolarPACES Symposium 2009 in Berlin

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Solar radiation used to generate electrical power

Know-how for a sustainable energy supply

Solar-thermal power plants, in which concentrated solar radiation is used to generate electrical power, can play a very important role in energy production for the future. In September 2009, the German Aerospace Center (Deutsches Zentrum für Luft- und Raumfahrt; DLR) will host the SolarPACES conference, the world's foremost scientific forum dedicated to concentrating solar power plants. The objective is to make a significant contribution to a long-term, sustainable power supply by developing solar-thermal power plants and marketing them around the world.

According to recent studies, in 2050 more than 15 percent of the global demand for electrical power will be met using concentrating solar power systems. Solar-thermal power plants are already providing electricity for one million people right now. The market for concentrating solar power systems is therefore considered to be an interesting growth market for sustainable energy supply in the future.

SolarPACES - from 15 to 19 September in Berlin

Against this background, DLR will be hosting the 15th International SolarPACES Symposium in Berlin from 15 to 19 September 2009. SolarPACES (Solar Power and Chemical Energy Systems) is a network under the aegis of the International Energy Agency (IEA), currently used by 13 countries to coordinate

their collaborative efforts. The four-day scientific programme of the conference will bring together leading experts and decision makers in this field, providing them with a platform for a thorough discussion on the future of concentrating solar power systems. The German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (Bundesministerium für Umwelt, Naturschutz und Reaktorsicherheit; BMU) has agreed to act as patron for the event.

The SolarPACES conferences have been held at different locations worldwide over the past 30 years already, making it the oldest convention in this field. Until now, the conference was held once every two years, but in light of the very dynamic market for solar-thermal power systems and the strong interest in this technology, it will become an annual event from now on. Hosting this anniversary conference is a great honour for the DLR Institute of Technical Thermodynamics (DLR-Institut für Technische Thermodynamik). The last time the SolarPACES conference was held in Germany was in Cologne in 1996.

DLR represents Germany in the SolarPACES organisation and supplies a large number of its officials, including for instance the Executive Secretary, Dr Christoph Richter, and the Vice-Chairman, Professor Dr Robert Pitz-Paal, both of whom are associated with the DLR Institute of Technical Thermodynamics.

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