

VDE

Script Press Conference

At the opening of full solar services

by VDE – ISE Pte. Ltd. and SERIS

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Singapore

Inauguration of Full Solar Services

by

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In October 2008, the VDE – the Association for Electrical, Electronic and Information Technologies – and the Fraunhofer Institut Solare Energiesysteme, formed the joint venture VDE – ISE Pte. Ltd. Today, this joint venture and the Solar Energy Research Institute of Singapore – SERIS – are announcing the inauguration of full solar services for the photovoltaic industry in the Asia-Pacific region.

As we have seen in recent years, worldwide interest in renewable energy sources has been soaring. Public and government attention is increasingly focusing on sustainable energy from wind, photovoltaics, solar thermal and biomass as concerns about the global climate and environment grow. We all saw the dramatic urgency and intensity of these concerns during the recent global climate conference in Copenhagen. And regardless of the conference outcome, it is clear that climate change will be a compelling and central issue in our century. The world is gradually awakening – and responding – to an unprecedented threat.

Governments everywhere are beginning to realize that we are risking the future of the planet as we know it. We must reduce carbon emissions. And we must develop a more ecofriendly energy mix to meet global demand.

Our joint venture was created to help meet the need for clean energy by serving key solar energy players in Asia.

The VDE and Fraunhofer ISE are strong partners. The VDE is Europe's largest technical and scientific association. It is the information platform of the electrical and electronics industry – and brings together experts in science, industry, government authorities, standardization as well as testing and certification organizations.

The VDE Testing and Certification Institute plays a key role in industry and for the global trade – by testing and certifying electrical and electronic equipment, components and systems. Established in

1920, the Institute has vast experience providing a full range of safety and performance testing and a comprehensive service portfolio for manufacturers and retailers to support their access to the global market.

The VDE certification mark is an outstanding brand that is highly recognized and respected by buyers and end-users worldwide. The VDE Mark is the oldest certification mark in Europe and it has been established for 90 years now.

The focus of our work in Asia-Pacific has generally been on what I would call the standard products everyone knows: electrical products, electronic gear, technical devices and systems used in other products. Everything from household appliances to industrial automation systems.

And now we are officially expanding our local services into a new, exciting and highly promising field – solar energy.

We can now provide highly sophisticated testing and certification services for the performance and safety of photovoltaic modules and devices locally. The VDE - ISE and SERIS laboratories in the I-Quest International Business Park offer a full range of services to support the development of the solar market here – and make it highly attractive and competitive in the global arena.

In the last year there were a lot of restructuring activities in the solar industry but since few months we can see a fast recovering of the solar business in Europe and Asia. Also in North America we see very interesting positive movements.

Singapore is on the top of such developments because of the excellent promotion activities by the Economic Development Board (EDB).

With the active help of EDB we could form out our high level infrastructure in combination with SERIS. To serve our customers with One-Stop testing and certification in the solar industry, VDE has established also a close cooperation with CSA for the North American UL-certification scheme.

With all these positive developments we at VDE are sure - we have made the right move to the right place – at the right time. And we look forward to contributing to the growth of an industry focused on shaping a better future.