

Winning the Intersolar AWARD in its anniversary year,  
**solarnova turns 20 years old**

Wedel, 25 February 2016 – last year solarnova Deutschland GmbH took home the renowned industry prize the Intersolar AWARD for the Aktiv-Stadthaus (active townhouse) in Frankfurt am Main. The building, which encompasses 74 residential units with a photovoltaic facade, is a prime example of green energy production in the city centre and also serves as an object of research for the Federal German Government. This year, the photovoltaic pioneer from the Hamburg metropolitan area has a special reason to celebrate: it is solarnova's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

The award-winning Aktiv-Stadthaus will demonstrate, among other things, the feasibility of new building directives that apply throughout the EU. Here is a little background on these new guidelines and how solarnova plans to deal with them: starting in 2019, all new public constructions and, starting in 2021, all newly constructed buildings within the European Union must be nearly-zero buildings, or energetically self-sufficient. At that point in time, solarnova will have become a quarter of a century old – which is practically an eternity in the crisis-stricken solar energy industry. Sylvia Schmenk and her team will first celebrate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the internationally successful brand, which originally emerged from AEG Solartechnik and is today the epitome of custom-made photovoltaic modules that can be integrated into the building envelope, all of which bear the 'Made in Germany' seal. Unlike on-roof modules, BIPV (Building Integrated Photovoltaic Modules) modules not only complement classic construction material such as brick, marble, granite or wood, but can replace them as well. In addition to producing power, they also assume numerous additional functions such as insulation and solar protection. At the same time, they enhance the building's appearance and therefore make a visually attractive contribution to climate protection.

### **More than just a facade**

Honored with the INTERSOLAR award and nominated for the German Renewables Award, 31 December 2015 marked the end of a highly successful year for solarnova Deutschland GmbH. This year brought the Wedel-based company numerous international sales successes and a great deal of attention in the industry and among partners, as well as interested parties. Together with ABG Holding, the Hanover-based architecture firm HHS Planer + Architekten AG and Berlin EGS-plan, solarnova developed the prototypes for the BIPV module responsible for producing green power on the Aktiv-Stadthaus' facade in a visually attractive manner. The production order for the 374 deep black facade modules of the building, officially inaugurated in June of last year, ultimately went to solarnova.

What the experts say: in order to comply with the EU building directives that are taking effect in 2021, building facades in the future must be used for producing energy as well. The Aktiv-Stadthaus demonstrates how energetic self-sufficiency can even succeed in densely populated large cities.

### **A home game at the Hamburg Energy Days**

solarnova's 2016 anniversary year began with a 'home game': the company presented itself and its products during the Hamburg Energy Days, which took place in the Hanseatic City's Congress Centre on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6 February. The central themes of the exhibition included sustainable construction, modernization and electro-mobility. 'There was a great deal of interest in energy-efficient construction and modernization concepts using BIPV,' explains Sylvia Schmenk, CEO of solarnova Deutschland GmbH. Hamburg is not only a successful city but also a very pleasant place to live, where visually attractive climate protection is in particular demand.

From the 22<sup>nd</sup> to 24 June 2016, solarnova will once again participate in the leading global exhibition for the solar industry – Intersolar Europe. All industry experts will convene in Munich to discuss current topics and challenges, such as the new building directives. Such themes will also be handled at the ees Europe, Europe's largest exhibition for batteries and energy-saving systems, and international photovoltaics conference the EU PVSEC, both also taking place at this time.

Furthermore, numerous campaigns related to BIPV will take place during the 2016 anniversary year – undoubtedly ‘the most beautiful form of renewable energy’. The annual “Woche der Sonne” (Week of the Sun) is particularly useful for these events, and also celebrates an important anniversary in 2016. From the 17<sup>th</sup> to 26 June, it will celebrate its 10<sup>th</sup> birthday – offering numerous countrywide activities related to climate-friendly energy supply.

**You can also find our latest press information and corresponding photo material at <http://www.solarnova.de/de/presse.html>.**

### **About solarnova**

solarnova, located in Wedel near Hamburg, has been producing high-quality photovoltaic modules (PV) since 1996. The former company founder came from AEG Solartechnik, which had produced the first PV assembly line in Wedel by the beginning of the 1980s. The solutions manufactured here were used for terrestrial applications and special tasks in space travel and satellite technology. solarnova has mainly earned its first-class reputation worldwide as a manufacturer of individual modules for building-integrated photovoltaic modules (BIPV). BIPV not only enhances classic construction materials, but also replaces them. In addition to producing power, building-integrated PV also assume functions such as shading and weather protection, providing a privacy shield and sound insulation. When used as insulating glass, it can even provide heat insulation. solarnova’s references include single- and multiple-family homes along with the EWE ARENA in Oldenburg, the UMA Plaza in Herzogenaurach and the Public Safety Building in Salt Lake City (USA). Furthermore, solarnova is a reliable OEM partner, offers an in-house high-performance standard module series (SOL GT) and operates worldwide in the TURNKEY FAB business segment as a competent service provider for constructing turnkey module factories.

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