



PRESS RELEASE

Concentrator Optics started production plant for solar Fresnel lenses

Marburg, 16th June 2009. – Concentrator Optics GmbH, based in Cölbe, started its first production line of Fresnel lenses for high-concentration solar photovoltaic applications at the beginning of June.

Concentrating Photovoltaics (CPV) are close to common acceptance in the growing market of renewable energies. CPV solar modules have been reaching increasingly impressive efficiencies. Combined with significantly reduced costs by using concentrating optics to focus light onto small higher-efficiency cells this technology is leaving its research and prototype status, entering industrial production. German companies strive to make their contribution by pressing ahead a rapid technological development to provide affordable and environmental friendly electricity.

“We are focussed on nonimaging designs for solar applications. Our speciality are Fresnel lens parquets for concentrating photovoltaics (CPV). We offer the design, prototyping, testing and manufacturing of Fresnel lens parquets exceeding an area of 1 m² and have developed a multitude of systems over the last years. The typical optical train of a CPV system is made of a nonimaging Fresnel lens and a secondary optical element. The lens focuses the incident sunlight onto the refractive secondary, and in turn onto the target. We integrate the optical train into module and tracker design in close cooperation with our customers” says Dr. Ralf Leutz, CTO of Concentrator Optics.

Concentrator Optics was founded in April 2008 as a spin-off of the Physics Department of Marburg University and moved into its production facility in February 2009. The customers benefit from the competence of experts gained through academic research on nonimaging optics and commercial development of solar applications. An indication of the experience of the team of designers shaping Concentrator Optics around its co-founder Dr. Ralf Leutz is R. Leutz, A. Suzuki: “Nonimaging Fresnel Lenses - Design and performance of solar concentrators”, Springer 2001.

“Our goal is the technology leadership in the solar lens market. Innovative research is an integral part of our strategy to ensure sustainable growth on a technology basis”, Rainer Adomeit, COO of Concentrator Optics states. *“It is our philosophy to guarantee the topmost efficiency possible to our customers and thus maximal profit during the whole product life of the module.”*

An automatized production line for the mass manufacturing of Fresnel lens parquets up to a capacity of 20 MW/year is available now. Easily it can be scaled up to a capacity of 100 MW/year.

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