



MEIER SOLAR SOLUTIONS

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Meier Solar Solutions makes “Top 100” shortlist

Specialist engineering company qualifies for the prestigious title of “Top 100 – Germany’s most innovative medium-sized enterprises“

Bocholt, 19th November 2009 – Both executive management and the 130 employees of Meier Solar Solutions GmbH can be very pleased about their company: it has taken an important step on the rocky road to gaining the coveted “Top 100” seal of approval. The cross-industry initiative undertaken by compamedia GmbH, now in its 18th year, takes a close look at innovation management in medium-sized enterprises, finding and honouring Germany’s most inventive and rapidly evolving companies. The winner receives the title of “Innovator of the Year”. The mentor, Lothar Späth, will announce the leading innovators at an official prize-giving ceremony on 1st July 2010.

Those responsible for the initial success of Meier Solar Solutions GmbH are very proud and rightly so - but they cannot rest on their laurels just yet. Now it is up to them to prove that the specialist engineering company really is among the most inventive and rapidly evolving medium-sized enterprises in Germany. To do this, the solar industry manufacturer must impress the scientific director of the project, Prof. Nikolaus Franke from the Vienna University of Economics and Business, providing detailed information about the company’s innovation management.

"We are very excited to be included in the final of the "TOP 100"," stated Florian von Gropper, CEO of the company. "The results of the study certainly give us a great sense of how good our innovation management already is and how we can build on our success and make further improvements," Florian von Gropper added. "We hope that being part of the "Top 100" will also benefit the corporate image".

Meier Solar Solutions GmbH has already won over the innovation experts with its data on the company's key financial figures, as well as the company's achievements in innovation.

Should the Bocholt firm gain a spot in the "Top 100", it would be in excellent company: the expert analysis of the 100 most innovative German medium-sized enterprises from last year has shown that 54% of these companies are national market leaders and 22% are succeeding on an international level.

The "Top 100" Project

The "Top 100" accolade for medium-sized enterprises will see participating companies be assessed according to independent, scientific criteria. The team at the Vienna University of Economics and Business undertakes a two-phase process, carefully examining the participants in five central areas: "innovation success", "climate for innovation", "innovative processes and organisation", "senior management in support of innovation" and "marketing of innovation".

If successful, these medium-sized enterprises gain recognition for being highly innovative business partners – even in comparison to major companies – something that is increasingly important, especially in the cost-intensive business-to-business arena and in finance negotiations.

Indeed, the companies that win in July 2010 will not just gain a seal of approval, since the network of all “Top 100“ companies provides important contacts and opens new doors. Furthermore, with the help of individual benchmarking reports, the company will be able to recognise its strengths and weaknesses, enabling it to optimise and improve its innovation management in a very targeted way.

About Meier Solar Solutions GmbH

Meier Solar Solutions GmbH, global market leader in laminators for encapsulating solar modules, was founded in 1999. With registered offices in Bocholt and Rossla, the company offers a comprehensive portfolio of solutions for the encapsulation of solar modules within fully automated assembly lines. This year, Meier Solar Solutions GmbH was able to consolidate its position as global market leader still further. The success of the new product portfolios allows the company to keep moving in the right direction. Meanwhile, every third solar panel produced around the world stems from a Meier laminator. With more than 280 systems, Meier Solar Solutions is now the biggest manufacturer of installed laminators in the world. This underlines the dominance of Meier laminators and confirms the success of the company right across the board.

The mentor, project partners and scientific director.

The mentor for this project is Lothar Späth. Bayern Innovativ Gesellschaft für Innovation und Wissenstransfer mbH, BVMW - Bundesverband mittelständischer Wirtschaft e.V., die Fraunhofer Gesellschaft zur Förderung der angewandten Forschung e.V., das RKW – Rationalisierungs- und Innovationszentrum der Deutschen Wirtschaft e.V., die SchmidtColleg GmbH & Co. KG, Association for Electrical, Electronic and Information Technologies (VDE), Association of German Engineers (VDI) as well as Weissman & Cie are all acting as project partners. The media partner is Süddeutsche Zeitung. Prof. Nikolaus Franke from the Vienna University of Economics and Business is in charge of scientific management of the project.

The organiser: compamedia GmbH

compamedia specialises in organising benchmarking projects for medium-sized businesses and setting up networks for these companies. The agency's focus is on gaining media attention for its projects, while the scientific management is taken on by competent expert project partners. Alongside the innovation project "Top 100", compamedia runs two other notable projects to support medium-sized businesses: the employer benchmarking project "Top Job" under the mentorship of Wolfgang Clement, as well as "Ethics in Business" with Ulrich Wickert as its advocate. The press contact is Silke Masurat (Tel: +49 (0)7551 94986-34, email: masurat@compamedia.de).

Print quality images of the company are available from Meier Solar Solutions Ltd, Marketing Department, or via email from Achim Harks at achim.harks@meier-solar-solutions.com. Print quality images of the project are available from the press section at www.top100.de.

For further information, please visit www.meier-solar-solutions.com

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