



PRESS RELEASE ON INTERSOLAR 2011

“Quality Tested” – Q-Cells SE receives VDE certificate for improved reliability of solar modules

- Representatives of the VDE institute present seal of approval to Q-Cells SE
- Test criteria exceed standard requirements in the solar industry
- Q-Cells contributed to developing seal of approval and test procedure

Bitterfeld-Wolfen / Munich (Germany), June 9, 2011 – Q-Cells SE, one of the leading photovoltaics companies in the world, is officially awarded the VDE “Quality Tested” certificate at this year’s Intersolar trade fair in Munich. Q-Cells, VDE (Association for Electrical, Electronic & Information Technologies), Fraunhofer ISE (Institute for Solar Energy Systems) and another photovoltaics company cooperated on developing a test procedure that was to form the basis for certification with the “Quality Tested” seal of approval. Compared to the current standard in the photovoltaics sector, solar modules certified to the VDE “Quality Tested” seal of approval comply with higher requirements. Test criteria applied by VDE institute even exceed the requirements established in the renowned IEC standards. Main aspects include high reliability, optimized durability, low degradation and continuous line monitoring. Q-Cells underscores its claim to quality and again proves its technological leadership with regard to profitable, reliable and safe solar cells and modules.

To achieve VDE certification, solar modules are subjected to the damp heat test for longer periods of time and exposed to higher stress during the thermal cycling test. For all tests, the maximum admissible reduction in output of the solar module is 5%. Continuous quality monitoring during and after module production is another important feature of the new seal of approval. Possible deviations can already be addressed during the manufacturing process.

Q-Cells has a track record of producing high-performance solar cells and modules and operates its own research and testing facilities. To secure the long-term quality and reliability of Q-Cells’ products, all solar modules undergo various test cycles in the dedicated module test line. Q-Cells can therefore draw on extensive experience and knowledge, making it the perfect partner for the independent VDE testing institute.



After receiving the VDE certificate, Q-Cells will be allowed to put the VDE “Quality Tested” seal of approval on all products and product-related information. Buyers of Q-Cells’ solar products are given another proof of the excellent quality.

Requirements of the VDE certificate exceed existing standards:

- Conducting tests with more test samples
- Thermal cycling test with higher cycles
- Damp heat test with longer test duration
- Dynamic mechanical stress test
- For all tests, maximum admissible degradation in output is 5% for the entire test sequence
- Permanent, supervised tests during production
- Continuous monitoring of modules taken from the production line

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About Q-Cells SE

The Q-Cells Group is one of the world’s leading photovoltaics companies and offers a wide range of photovoltaic solutions, from solar cells and modules to solar power plants. Q-Cells’s products are developed and manufactured at its headquarters in Bitterfeld-Wolfen (Germany) and marketed via its global sales network. It also has a second production plant in Malaysia. More than 200 scientists and engineers at Q-Cells are working to swiftly advance solar technology and achieve Q-Cells’ twin aims: driving down the costs of photovoltaics quickly and permanently, and making solar power competitive. The close links between R&D and production enable Q-Cells to rapidly translate cutting-edge innovation into mass production - and underpin its ambition to be at the forefront of photovoltaic technology. Q-Cells is quoted on the Frankfurt Stock Exchange (QCE; ISIN DE0005558662) and also listed on the TecDAX, the German technology index.

Executive Board: Dr Nedim Cen (CEO), Dr Marion Helmes (CFO), Hans-Gerd Füchtenkort (CSO)
Chairman of the Supervisory Board: Prof Dr Karlheinz Hornung