

Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

2006 RECIPIENT OF SHC SOLAR AWARD SELECTED

Wels, Austria (March 1, 2006) – The recipient of the 2006 SHC SOLAR AWARD is **Dr. Volker Wittwer**, Deputy Director of Fraunhofer Institute for Solar Energy Systems in Freiburg, Germany. Dr. Wittwer received the IEA Solar Heating & Cooling (SHC) Programme's award during a ceremony at the Renewable Heating & Cooling conference at the World Energy Sustainable Days in Wels, Austria.

"This Award acknowledges his outstanding commitment and excellent achievements over many years," states Dr. Volkmar Lottner, the German delegate to the IEA Solar Heating and Cooling Executive Committee, and adds, "As a result of his personal efforts and with the support of his colleagues, the Fraunhofer Institute has become one of the leading solar research institutes in Europe."

The SHC SOLAR AWARD is given to an individual, company, or private/public institution that has shown outstanding leadership or achievements in the field of solar heating and cooling, and that supports the work of the IEA Solar Heating and Cooling Programme.

Dr. Wittwer is the fourth recipient of the SHC SOLAR AWARD. He was selected for his role as a pioneer in the development of solar thermal collectors, for his contributions to low energy buildings and their components, and for his commitment to SHC work from his participation as a project expert in the 1980s to his support of German participation in many SHC projects.

Under his leadership, combined with his scientific input, key innovations for solar technologies have been achieved:

- selective coatings produced with sputter technology; today this is the dominant technology for production of selective absorber coatings;
- low-e-coatings for glazings and windows;
- smart window coatings (electro-chromic, gasochromic, photo-electro-chromic, thermotropic);
- advanced insulation materials (transparent and vacuum insulation);
- anti-reflectance coatings for solar glazing; and
- micro-encapsulated phase change materials for integration into building materials.

In addition, Dr. Wittwer is one of the architects of the "European Solar Thermal Technology Platform," which is to be the key consultant to the European Commission on solar thermal research, technology and development.

The IEA Solar Heating & Cooling Programme, www.iea-shc.org, is committed to expanding the market share of solar energy. By recognizing outstanding contributions made in the solar field, the Programme is drawing the world's attention to solar energy as an environmentally sound source for heating and cooling.

