

## Press information

**France's first grid-tied solar power installation recently lab tested, demonstrating reliable long-term performance**

### **KYOCERA Solar Modules Tested to Show Only Minimal Power Output Degradation After 20 Years in the Field**

**Kyoto/Neuss, 10 September 2012 – Kyocera Corporation's solar modules installed in a French village to the east of Lyon recently marked a special anniversary — the modules, which were used for France's first grid-tied solar power generating system, have been producing clean energy for the last 20 years. Furthermore, recent laboratory testing of the pioneering system confirms that Kyocera's solar modules, which were installed in 1992, show only minimal degradation in performance. The 945-watt system, which is installed on a roof in the small village of Lhuis, showed only an 8.3% degradation in performance from its original power output level. The performance of this system is a testament to the extraordinary long-term reliability and performance of Kyocera modules.**

The recent test on the solar modules was carried out by the Atomic Energy and Alternative Energies Commission (CEA) — which is connected with the State Solar Research Institute INES — and the certification laboratory CERTISOLIS. The inspectors removed a sampling of the solar modules from the installation and tested them under laboratory conditions in accordance with international standards. Kyocera cooperated with the study by providing the original technical specification sheets, as well as a reference module. The evaluation instruments were then matched to the customary methods used at the time of manufacturing. The results

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showed that the modules still perform at 91.7% of their original maximum power output.

### **Pioneering, High-Quality Solar Technology**

The 945-watt installation was commissioned in 1992 by Hespul, a French non-profit organization involved in the promotion of renewable energies and energy efficiency. The installation consists of 15 modules each with an output of 63 watts. In the constantly innovating field of solar energy, 20 years is a long time, which makes the long-term performance and efficiency of these modules manufactured with the technology available at that time particularly remarkable. For the past 20 years, as a leader in innovative solar module technology, Kyocera has been able to further enhance the reliability and efficiency of its modules.

As one of the pioneers in the field of renewable energies, Kyocera started R&D of solar energy as early as 1975, and the company is one of only a few in the solar industry that can lay claim to real-life, tried-and-tested solar power generating systems which have been operating with high performance for upwards of 28 years straight, including such installations in Japan (est. 1984), Sweden (est. 1984), and China (est. 1985).

**For more information about Kyocera:** [www.kyocera.eu](http://www.kyocera.eu)

#### **About Kyocera**

Headquartered in Kyoto, Japan, Kyocera Corporation is one of the world's leading manufacturers of fine ceramic components for the technology industry. The strategically important divisions in the Kyocera Group, which is comprised of 235 subsidiaries (as of April 1, 2012), are information and communications technologies, products which increase quality of life, and environmentally friendly products. The technology group is also one of the largest producers of solar energy systems worldwide, with more than 3,0 gigawatts of solar power

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having been installed around the world to date.

With a global workforce of about 71,000 employees, Kyocera posted net sales of approximately €10.83 billion in fiscal year 2011/2012. The products marketed by the company in Europe include laser printers, digital copying systems, microelectronic components, fineceramic products and complete solar power systems. The Kyocera Group has two independent companies in the Federal Republic of Germany: Kyocera Fineceramics GmbH in Neuss and Esslingen and Kyocera Document Solutions in Meerbusch.

The company also takes an active interest in cultural affairs. The Kyoto Prize, a prominent international award, is presented each year by the Inamori Foundation — established by Kyocera founder Dr. Kazuo Inamori — to individuals and groups worldwide who have contributed significantly to the scientific, cultural, and spiritual betterment of humankind (converted at present €500,000 per prize category).

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