Press Release

Floatzone systems for the USA

(Asslar, September 16, 2008) – PVA TePla Danmark, Frederikssund, a branch of PVA TePla AG, Asslar, and a manufacturer of float-zone crystal growing systems, has received an order from Hoku Materials, a division of Hoku Scientific, Inc., to supply crystal growing and analysis systems for the USA, mainly for the solar industry. The order is worth roughly EUR 5 million. The systems will be delivered in the upcoming 10 months.

The order from Hoku Materials is related to a significant build-up of capacities to produce polysilicon – mainly for the solar industry – at Pocatello, Idaho in the USA.

The Danish branch of PVA TePla specializes in the manufacture of float-zone crystal growing systems, with which largely high-purity, monocrystalline silicon rods can be manufactured, for example for highly efficient photovoltaic wafers and high-frequency applications in the semiconductor industry. However, float-zone systems are also a key element in the production chain for the manufacture of polysilicon as a basic material for wafers. In the system type "Slim rod puller" ordered by Hoku Materials, thin silicon rods, on which the raw silicon is subsequently deposited during the production process in the reactor, are manufactured. In the additionally ordered analysis systems, the purity of the produced polysilicon is examined by converting the material to a monocrystalline structure and afterwards its quality analysed.

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Further above-average sales opportunities for float-zone systems are arising as a result of the global build-up of additional production capacity for polysilicon. In line with the capacity increase these systems will also be manufactured in future in Jena and Wettenberg, production sites of the PVA TePla.

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