

## REMENA visit to SMA – February 20, 2012.

### 2010

- ✓ Great Place to Work®: TOP 5 Best Workplaces in Europe.
- ✓ 1st prize Energy Efficiency Award 2010 for the world's largest and CO<sub>2</sub>-neutral inverter plant.
- ✓ Great Place to Work®: TOP 5 Best Workplaces in Germany.



On February 20<sup>th</sup> 2012, 10 students from the third batch of the Master Program Renewable Energy & Energy Efficiency (REMENA) participated in a full day seminar at SMA Solar Academy. The students had just finished their part in Cairo University and came to continue their studies in Kassel University. So a great start in Kassel was with this visit to one of the worldwide market leaders in Solar Technology, which produce and supply solar inverters, transformers and chokes, and a provider of innovative energy supply solutions.

“SMA Solar inverters are characterized by a particularly high efficiency of up to 99 %, which allows for increased electricity production. The multi award-winning product range covers solar inverters for roof systems, major solar projects and off-grid systems, enabling SMA to provide a technically optimized inverter solution for all size categories and system types. Its range of services is complemented by a worldwide service network.

SMA Solar Technology AG is headquartered in Niestetal, near Kassel, and is represented in 19 countries on four continents. The Group employs a staff of over 5,300 worldwide, plus a number of temporary employees which varies on a seasonal basis. In recent years, SMA has received numerous awards for its excellence as an employer and in 2011 reached first place in the federal “Great Place to Work” competition.”

From the beginning of the visit the students were taken by the strange look of the training center or what so called Solar Academy, it looks like a spaceship full of advance technology and reflects the futuristic orientation of the company. Then, a full day seminar took place covering the following topics.

## Seminar contents

- Introduction
- Topology of grid tied PV inverter
- Sunny Central
- Communication & Monitoring
- Off-Grid
- Backup-System / Energy Management



## Manufacturing plant visit

At the end of the day we had the chance to visit the plant which is couple of hundred meters away from the Solar Academy. The main gateway looks like an entrance of a 5 stars hotel. Shortly, a wireless headsets was provided to the participants, so it was expected to have some noise inside like any other plant, but it came up as quiet as a feather hitting the ground, fully organized and flexible production line that adapt to the rapid change of the customer needs and the dynamic market trends of the photovoltaic industry. The plants for solar inverters in Germany and North America have a capacity of approximately 11.5 GW a year, in addition manufacturing plant for electromagnetic core components in Poland.

The beauty of the plant must be shown in pictures but unfortunately it was not allowed to take pictures inside the plant.

## Students' testimonials

### Mohamed Shalaby:

I would like to propose to add a week to study in SMA academy all the courses, if possible, would be good if it is optional. I think it would improve REMENA students and make them in much better position in the Market. I suggest the best timing for SMA



academy week to be before REMENA students start studying in Kassel or week after REMENA finish their studies in Kassel.

Alaa Alhamwi:

The fruitful visit to the ideal green building of Solar academy have proved that saying of Gandhi when he said “it seems always impossible... till it’s done”. It is more than impressive.

## Contacts

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