



Press Release

SMA Solar Technology AG

### **SMA recognized as one of Germany's best employers once again**

**Niestetal, February 26, 2010 – SMA Solar Technology AG was recognized as one of the best employers in Germany once again. SMA reached second place in the nationwide competition Great Place to Work®, in the category for medium-sized companies. In addition, as last year, SMA received a special award for "Lifelong Learning".**

The German Great Place to Work Institute® names the best employer in Germany every year. The award recognizes the credibility and fairness of management, team spirit within the company, and the employees' identification with it. In addition to an evaluation of the work carried out by human resources departments within the companies, a comprehensive, anonymous employee survey judges cooperative work, leadership, the options for further professional development, salaries, and workplace satisfaction, among other facets. The award ceremony was held in Berlin on February 24, 2010.

In this year's Great Place to Work® competition, SMA reached second place in the category "Companies with 501 to 5,000 employees", following the awards of previous years, nationwide as well as on a European level. In addition, SMA was distinguished with the special award for "Lifelong Learning" for the second time in a row. With this, the jury recognized SMA's overall concept in the field of employee development, and especially the introduction of a company-wide competence management.

"The distinction as one of the best employers in Germany and the special award for 'Lifelong Learning' are an excellent recognition for our cooperative management, which is an essential part of our success strategy. At the same time, they document the high identification of our employees with the company and show that our corporate culture of transparency and team spirit is filled with life every day. This highly motivates our employees and supports innovation and flexibility", explains Juergen Dolle, Head of SMA Human Resources. "The awards encourage us to continue our course and to consistently develop this strategy further."



For the Great Place to Work competition 2010, the Great Place to Work® Institute independently evaluated companies of all sectors, sizes and regions around Germany regarding their quality and attractiveness as an employer. More than 50.000 employees were interviewed for the evaluation.

SMA participates in the German and European competitions since 2006 and was already among the best employers in 2006, 2008 and 2009. Furthermore, the company received special prizes for "Lifelong Learning" and "Fair Salaries" in 2009.

### **About the Great Place to Work® Institute**

The Great Place to Work® Institute is an independent and international research-and-consulting institute which currently supports companies in 36 countries in the development of trusting and successful workplaces. Aside from its individual research and consulting activities, the institute identifies outstanding employers regularly within the framework of annual benchmark surveys and presents them to the public. Since 2002, the German Great Place to Work® Institute has organized the renowned "Germany's best employer" competition annually.

### **About SMA**

The SMA Group generated sales of more than 934 million Euros in 2009 according to preliminary figures and is the worldwide market leader for photovoltaic inverters, a key component of all solar power plants. It is headquartered in Niestetal, near Kassel, Germany and is represented on four continents by twelve sales and service subsidiaries as well as one production subsidiary. The Group employs a staff of over 4,000 (incl. temporary employees). SMA's product portfolio includes the most comprehensive range of inverters on the market, offering a compatible inverter for every type of photovoltaic module and for all plant sizes. The product range covers both inverters for photovoltaic plants connected to the grid as well as inverters for off-grid systems. Since 2008, the Group's parent company SMA Solar Technology AG has been listed on the Prime Standard of the Frankfurt Stock Exchange (S92) and also in the TecDAX index. In recent years, SMA has received numerous awards for its excellence as an employer.

**SMA Solar Technology AG**

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