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New course “Solar Energy Engineering” of the University of Freiburg and the Fraunhofer ISE prepares experts for the energy transition

Master and certificate program to start in October 2016

At the UN climate conference in Paris at the end of 2015, the global community agreed on limiting global warming to clearly under 2° Celsius compared to the preindustrial level. Establishing and advancing solar energy as one of the most important renewable energy sources plays a decisive role in achieving this aim. To comprehensively prepare experts and executive staff for the energy transition, the University of Freiburg in scientific cooperation with the Fraunhofer Institute for Solar Energy Systems ISE and the Fraunhofer Academy offers two continuing education options in the field of Solar Energy Engineering: the new part-time master program “M.Sc. Solar Energy Engineering” and a certificate program offering different “Solar Energy Engineering Certificate” modules. Both programs are to start in October. They address an international target group; the course language is English. Application deadline for the master program is September 1, 2016. The deadline for the certificate program is October 1, 2016. From June 22 to 24, the Fraunhofer ISE and the University of Freiburg present the new course contents at the Intersolar Europe fair in Munich (booth A1.540).

The continuing education program “Solar Energy Engineering” particularly addresses individuals with a background in natural sciences or engineering who want to extend their knowledge and skills in the field of solar energy. Professionals from solar system production or sales as well as newcomers to the field of solar energy may use the program to enhance their background knowledge. “Renowned scientists of the Fraunhofer ISE and the University of Freiburg are committed to the new master program with their acknowledged expertise from all fields of solar energy utilization so that our offer will cover the entire spectrum of solar engineering”, explains the director of the continuing education program, Prof. Dr. Stefan Glunz from Fraunhofer ISE.

Unique content combination of the “M.Sc. Solar Energy Engineering” worldwide

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The course content of the “M.Sc. Solar Energy Engineering” ranges from the structure and design of solar systems to their production and the professional setup of photovoltaic and solar thermal facilities. This combination of broad technical content and scientific depth makes the program unique worldwide. Preparatory modules provide students with an overview of the physical, mathematical, and electrochemical basics of solar energy. The course is centered on three compulsory modules. They teach a comprehensive overview of the physics and technologies of solar cells, photovoltaic systems, and solar thermal systems and consider the complete production chain of the market-dominating technology of crystalline silicon solar modules. By selecting different modules, participants may put their individual focus on fields such as “solar cell technologies”, “characterization and modeling”, “photovoltaic systems and grid integration”, or “solar thermal systems”.

The course is based on the blended learning principle: a combination of online learning phases, voluntary campus phases at the University of Freiburg, and obligatory laboratory courses in the dedicated learning labs at the Fraunhofer ISE. Exams may be taken on site in Freiburg but also at another university or a Goethe Institute close to the own place of residence. The new master program starts in October 2016; application deadline is September 1, 2016.

Certificate program for qualification for individual specific topics

Five modules of the course may be booked individually in the scope of a certificate program. Upon completion, participants earn a university certificate. Previously completed modules are credited in case participants later decide on the master program. Application deadline for the certificate program is October 1, 2016.

For more information about the continuing education program please visit www.academy.fraunhofer.de/en/continuing-education/energy-sustainability/solar-energy-engineering.html.

Fraunhofer Academy

The Fraunhofer Academy brings together all continuing education programs of the Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft under one roof. Latest findings from science and research are channeled directly into the teaching content, ensuring outstanding knowledge transfer from Fraunhofer research to enterprises. The part-time study program, certificate courses, and seminars address experts and executive staff. They are based on the

research activities of Fraunhofer institutes in cooperation with selected and renowned partner universities.

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For more information please visit www.academy.fraunhofer.de.