



Corporate News 3S Industries AG

Closeness to customers in the USA - 3S Industries AG opens a sales and service centre in Tucson (Arizona)

Lyss, 8th September 2008. 3S Industries AG, the world's technological leader for automatic string soldering machinery, laminating lines and testers for solar module production, is opening a sales and service company in Tucson on 8th September 2008. The establishment of the subsidiary 3S Industries USA Inc. is an important milestone for the international development of the Group with its subsidiaries Somont GmbH, 3S Swiss Solar Systems AG and Pasan SA. American customers involved in crystalline and thin-film module production will benefit with immediate effect from the shorter channels and simplified advisory and service processes.

"The strongly growing US market for photovoltaics offers enormous potential," says CEO Dr. Patrick Hofer-Noser, "so it's important for 3S to establish a strong presence here. With our new location in Tucson, we are more quickly with and closer to our customers." 3S offers production equipment in the USA for the key technologies of soldering, laminating and testing as well as complete turnkey lines for the production of solar modules. With its range of products, 3S Industries covers both the crystalline and the thin-film technologies and therefore appeals to a broad clientele in the USA.

In recent months, 3S Industries has sold a number of production facilities in the USA. With immediate effect, customers in the USA will be served by experienced and trained 3S Industries employees at the new sales and service hub in Arizona. The on-location presence will simplify direct contact to the sales and service personnel which encompasses specialists for all three key technologies in solar module production.

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3S Industries AG (formerly 3S Swiss Solar Systems AG) brings together the three key technologies in the field of solar module production, namely soldering, laminating and testing, under a single roof. With the acquisition of Somont, the Group has continued its expansion strategy and, with automatic string soldering machinery, has added the missing element in the value-creation chain of solar module production. 3S Swiss Solar Systems has been the world's technological market leader in laminating for years. In August 2007, 3S Industries acquired a further key technology with Pasan SA, the leading producer of module testers.

The three companies operate independently of each other, each focused on one of the three key technologies. Furthermore, 3S Industries integrates this production equipment in turnkey, semi-automatic production lines. 3S Industries is also a producer of solar modules and plans and develops building-integrated solar systems.

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