

PRESS RELEASE

Energy Turnaround with the youngest: Solar Powered Bobby Cars

Solteature sponsored the Bobby Car Solar Cup 2011 – Germany’s only solar powered bobby cars

Berlin, 16th July 2011 – Even the youngest are shaping the energy turnaround and on Saturday the day had finally arrived: 22 teams showed off their finished solar powered bobby cars to the public in the grounds of the Stadtwerke Bielefeld and competed in an exciting race of speed and skills. The Bobby Car Solar Cup 2011 was the climax to a four month work phase in which the students took on the challenge to fit a Solteature solar module, a motor and an electric regulator to a bobby car and convert it into a racing vehicle. Almost 30 companies and their engineers supported the children in the design and building of the solar racers.

Solteature provided the necessary energy in the form of a solar module that was fixed in various versions to the bobby car. Incident light is ‘absorbed’ by the CIS semiconductor and converted into electrical charge carriers. The resulting electrical voltage enabled the bobby cars to reach speeds of over 20 km/h (12mph).

For Solteature there was never a doubt about taking part in the exciting project: encouraging pupils to take an interest in solar energy, engineering and fiddly jobs then getting them into technical professions. This engagement didn’t happen without some self-interest as Dagmar Strauß of Solteature knows: “The success of Solteature would not be possible without its employees and especially the engineers. Perhaps through the experience gained here some of the students will get into the solar energy field and at some future date join and strengthen our team.” So far she knew the solar modules only as a building material for facades or roofs. She was delighted to see what the children had created and managed to get out of them.

The Bobby Car Solar Cup is a project of the business development agency Wirtschaftsentwicklungsgesellschaft Bielefeld (WEGE mbH) in cooperation with the enterprise network Unternehmensnetzwerk Energie Impuls OWL and so far unique in Germany.

About Solteature

Solteature, which was founded in 2001, is a spin-off from the Helmholtz Centre Berlin for Materials and Energy. With 250 employees, the company is now globally one of the three leading manufacturers of thin-film solar power modules based on CIS semiconductors. Solteature has received multiple awards for its cutting edge research and product development. The UK’s Guardian newspaper recently once again listed the Berlin company among the “hottest 100 clean technology companies in Europe”. In recent years, renowned international investors, including Intel Capital, Climate Change Capital, and the of Vattenfall Europe- and GdF Suez-supported BEU Fund, have provided Solteature growth financing amounting to more than 110 million euros. This fresh capital has been utilized for constructing new production facilities and for research and development. Further information is available at: www.solteature.com.

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