

a+f GmbH develops and markets technologies for making effective use of available solar energy on an industrial scale

The Wuerzburg-based company a+f GmbH has been in business for 25 years as a machine and plant manufacturer. As a subsidiary of the GILDEMEISTER group, the world's largest manufacturer of metal-cutting machine tools, a+f GmbH has access to the know-how and skills of the parent company. In addition to a strategic focus on the procurement of castings, steel and machine components, the company provides the development, project planning, implementation and servicing of tracking systems for photovoltaics.

Beginning with the introduction of the SunCarrier tracking system, a+f GmbH has focused since 2006 on the industrial installation of solar power plants. The SunCarrier is a single-axis tracking system that continuously adjusts the module surface via the vertical axis to the current position of the sun. This ensures an optimum angle for capturing sunlight and an increased energy yield of up to 35% compared to conventional solutions available in the market. With a module surface covering up to 287.5 square meters, depending on the type of module used, an output of up to 53 kWp can be installed on the SunCarrier. At a location in southern Europe, this is equivalent to supplying up to 30 four-person households with power, each consuming 3,500 kWh per annum.

The first model SunCarrier 220, designed with a module surface of approx. 225 square meters were developed in 2004, and then installed in Wuerzburg and tested over the course of two years. The follow-up model, the SunCarrier 260, is noted for having a module surface which is 25 square meters larger and an even more robust steel structure. Prompted by developments in the market calling for even larger generators, the SunCarrier 250 with a module surface area of around 250 square meters was developed for the domestic market at the start of 2006. In June 2008, the SunCarrier 300 was introduced at the Intersolar trade fair in Munich. This, like the type 260, was designed for the southern European market and it boasts a module surface of 287.5 square meters.

In addition to delivering dozens of single installations and small "parks" containing up to six SunCarrier in Germany, Greece, Italy and Korea, in the last twelve months, a+f GmbH has completed over 45 MWp of fully implemented larger turnkey projects, amongst others in Spain. With these turnkey projects, a+f GmbH provides its customers with complete project management from development, planning and implementation of the installations right through to servicing.





Competence centre completed after nine months of construction at Faulenbergstraße 4 in Wuerzburg.



Photovoltaic modules which are integrated into the facade of the building and combined with the SunCarrier reference systems to deliver all the power the competence centre requires.

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