

PRESS RELEASE

A helping hand in a time of need

Mitsubishi Electric Ratingen sponsors rescue package with solar technology

Ratingen, 20 November 2009

The Aidsburger family in the Bavarian town of Hilgertshausen had fallen on hard times. Although they had made the right fundamental decision with a planned solar electricity plant, the wrong company unfortunately succeeded in gaining their confidence. Instead of electricity, all they had was debt. Reputable companies got involved and made for a happy end with a spur-of-the-moment aid event.

The solar plant which was initially commissioned was supposed to cost € 134,000 and was financed with a loan, for which a mortgage was taken out on the family's house. The substructure for the solar cells on the roof was supposed to be installed in April without delay, but then nothing happened at all. The company hired kept making Sonja Aidsburger promises, but then suddenly dropped out of sight. The deposit of around € 120,000 is all for nought. And without the solar plant, the planned income from electricity is also gone, meaning that there is no way to pay off the loan that had been taken out. In April, Mrs. Aidsburger had bitter prospects to face: "I can only assume that I'm not getting the plant anymore. Which naturally means we're ruined."

But fortunately, it didn't have to go that far: A relief action spontaneously organised by local Mitsubishi partners Reisinger Sonnenstrom came to the rescue in October. Together with the product manufacturers and the bank, they put together a support package for the Aidsburger family – thanks to donated material and services rendered free of charge.

Mitsubishi Electric of Ratingen immediately gives the green light for the delivery of Mitsubishi photovoltaic modules at the pure cost of manufacturing: A total of 155 180MF5 photovoltaic modules are sent to Bavaria. Reisinger Sonnenstrom takes over the photovoltaic planning, assembles the roof mounting frame, installs the Mitsubishi Electric photovoltaic modules and tends to the arrangement with the energy provider – all free of charge. Work on the roof is finished in only three days. The 27.9 kilowatt photovoltaic system is connected to the public network around noon on 16 October 2009. Solar energy can finally be supplied. Mrs. Aidsburger can hardly believe her luck with new plant: “They're really there – the meter's turning!”

This means that the revenue from the solar energy can finally start flowing, too. The donated photovoltaic plant will pay back the entire loan over the next 20 years with electricity generated which is sold to the regional energy provider. Mrs. Aidsburger can keep her house and home. And if the sun shines more than anticipated, she can even expect a little extra income on her “solar account”.

With their rescue action, the solar companies involved would like to show that home owners who are thinking about a photovoltaic plant are on the right path when they get themselves “power from the roof”. “Solar electricity producers of the shouldn't let a couple ‘black sheep’ keep them from take advantage of solar energy for themselves,” emphasises Bernd Reisinger, coordinator of the aid event.

As a staunch advocate of solar technology like many of his employees, the head of Reisinger Sonnenstrom also invested privately in solar power plants. Most recently in a solar generator made up of 864 photovoltaic high performance modules with 159.84 kilowatts from Mitsubishi Electric (type MF185). Ten plants distributed on the roofs of residential houses, companies and leased halls generate a total of 510,000 kilowatt hours of green electricity annually: enough for 170 households. As an added bonus, his solar power production is reducing his CO2 emissions by more than 8,000 tonnes over the next 20 years.

In Bavaria alone, there are currently around 120,000 solar plants already, and that number is rising. Electricity production on the roof is not only environmentally friendly, it also really pays off. A 30 square meter plant, for instance, generates about 3,000 kilowatt hours per year, which is roughly equivalent to the supply requirements of a private household. And state sponsorship offers for solar plants are naturally an additional incentive.

Further information on Mitsubishi Electric Europe's branch in Germany:

<http://www.MitsubishiElectric.de>

Caption photo 1: Surrounded by the Reisinger team and bouquets of flowers: an overjoyed Sonja Aidsburger; at her side: Bernd Reisinger, the Initiator of the aid action (5th from right)

Caption photo 2: Installation of the photovoltaic modules from Mitsubishi Electric

Press Contact:

Mitsubishi Electric Europe B.V.
German Branch
Barbara Sutter
Manager Corporate Communications
Gothaer Straße 8
40880 Ratingen, Germany
www.MitsubishiElectric.de
Tel.: +49 - (0)2102 / 486-53 80
Fax: +49 - (0)2102 / 486-2000
barbara.sutter@meg.mee.com