



TÜV Rheinland Introduces New Testing Services to PV Module Manufacturers **07/05/2012 | Temp**



TÜV Rheinland Photovoltaic Testing Laboratory LLC., North America's largest solar and photovoltaic (PV) testing company, is introducing new services to test the

quality and safety of components, modules and solar energy systems at Intersolar North America, booth # 8628. These include testing of PV modules depending on their specific application; testing criteria stricter than the criteria mandated by the official standard; and continuous testing of the manufacturer's production process and products.

The company offers new tests to evaluate performance of PV modules depending on where they are used. These requirements include salt spray tests for modules installed in coastal regions, ammonia tests for modules installed in agricultural areas, various snow load tests, and the initial criteria of a testing program for modules in deserts.

TÜV Rheinland has also developed new services that go beyond the basic design certifications according to IEC 61215 or IEC 61646. The company is now performing regular, often unannounced, production inspections when certifying the designs of new manufacturers. TÜV Rheinland specialists also select modules for laboratory

tests directly from production rather than accepting items provided by the manufacturer, as set out in the standards.

To further enhance performance reliability and safety of PV modules, TÜV Rheinland established a "Power Controlled" test seal. It stands for continuous testing of the manufacturer's production process and products to verify that they perform as promised. In the first stage, TÜV Rheinland specialists perform annual on-site checks at the manufacturer's plant to determine if the quality requirements for measuring the module power output are met during production. In the second stage, the power output of the manufactured modules themselves is tested. To do so, TÜV Rheinland experts take randomly selected modules directly from production once a quarter.

Additionally, TÜV Rheinland supports the development of building-integrated PV (BIPV) modules on a roof or facade. The company's specialists play a key role in developing appropriate standards for BIPV and are working on test scenarios, such as impermeability in driving rain, sound protection, fire prevention and thermal insulation.

Based in Tempe, Ariz., TÜV Rheinland PTL, LLC is a leading provider of safety and performance testing and market certification, serving every sector of the photovoltaic and solar thermal marketplace, from the supply chain through installation. TÜV Rheinland PTL is a recognized OSHA NRTL for the UL standards and an ANSI Standards Developing Organization. TÜV Rheinland PTL was formed as a unique partnership between Arizona State University, an institution with more than 50 years of research on solar energy and extensive solar testing know-how, and TÜV Rheinland, a \$1.9 billion global provider of independent testing, assessment, and certification services. TÜV Rheinland maintains the largest network of Solar Energy Laboratories worldwide, with five major laboratories on three continents.

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TÜV Rheinland is a global leader in independent inspection services, founded 140 years ago. The Group maintains a presence at around 500 locations in 65 countries with 17,000 employees. Annual turnover is EUR 1.4 billion. The independent experts stand for quality and safety for people, the environment, and technology in nearly all aspects of life. TÜV Rheinland inspects technical equipment, products and services, oversees projects and helps to shape processes for companies. Its experts train people in a wide range of careers and industries. To this end, TÜV Rheinland employs a global network of approved labs, testing and education centres. Since 2006, TÜV Rheinland has been a member of the United Nations Global Compact to promote sustainability and combat corruption.

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