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Research Project HHK

Performance Increase and Cost Reduction in Megawatt-Scale PV Inverters and Medical Technology

In collaboration with partners from research and industrial sectors, CONTAG AG has initiated a research project that focuses on the use of fast-switching semiconductor components in megawatt-scale photovoltaic inverters. The project is backed by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) with over three million euros in funding. The aim of the collaborative project HHK (high-frequency, high-current components for use in medical technology and PV inverters in the megawatt range) is to find ways to harness the benefits of fast-switching semiconductor components in high-current applications in the high-power range. Achieving this aim should lead to increased efficiency and lower inverter costs. In addition to CONTAG AG, the Fraunhofer IISB, the Fraunhofer IZM, Heraeus, SEMIKRON Elektronik GmbH & Co. KG, Siemens AG, SMA, TDK EPCOS AG and the University of Kassel are also participating in this three-year research project. SEMIKRON is responsible for project coordination.

Large-scale PV power plants in the gigawatt range form a central pillar in the global energy supply of tomorrow. Technological innovations can help further reduce the costs for solar power generation in these power plants and also increase the export strength of the German PV industry in this fast-growing sector.

Given this background, the project partners will research the use of new semiconductor components and low-inductance power modules over the next three years and develop special solutions for high-efficiency, cost-effective central inverters in the megawatt range. In addition to cost reduction, the project will also focus on improving the special application requirements of photovoltaics in terms of functionality, efficiency and service life.

A second application area for this new technological approach is medical technology. Here, the focus will be placed on the high-frequency path and the development of ultracompact medical inverters. Particularly with regard to CT scans, optimal solutions can be implemented for use in the high power ranges for X-ray imaging.

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PRESS RELEASE

The company

CONTAG produces printed circuit boards with matchless speed and extremely high quality – even in various special constructions. The company is a well recognized partner in the electronics industry since more than 30 years and has had a turnover of 8,7 million € in 2011. The production takes place in Berlin with 79 employees working a three-shift operation.

For more information, please visit <http://www.contag.de/>

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