Press Release – Industrial Solar

Title:

Supplying the Laundry Industry with environmentally friendly and cost efficient Solar Process Heat

Header:

Energy costs account for 8-10 % of the turnover in the laundry industry, placing them far ahead of other sectors. Thermal energy amounts to 80 % of the total amount of energy used in laundries, making this industry very promising for solar thermal process heat applications. Industrial Solar is looking for laundries that have the potential of optimizing their energy supply with solar generated process heat.

Text:

With funding from the German Ministry for the Environment, Industrial Solar GmbH is working with a diverse pool of partners to find a solution to integrating solar energy into laundry facilities. The goal of the project, dubbed SoProW (solar process heat for laundries) is to develop an optimized and standardized solar thermal industrial process heat system that can be used in the laundry industry. Representatives from all relevant sectors are involved so that the most pressing technical and non-technical barriers to this field can be addressed in parallel. The coordinating institution for this project is Fraunhofer Institute for Solar Energy Systems ISE. Among the partners taking part in the project are research institutes in the solar and textile field—Dr. Valentin Energy Software GmbH and Hohenstein Institute for Textile Innovation gmbH—, in addition to industry partners from the solar and textile sectors—Wagner and Co. Solartechnik GmbH, s-power Entwicklungs- und Vertriebs GmbH, Helmholz-Zentrum Dresden-Rossendorf e.V., Coburger Handtuch+Matten-Service, and Limón GmbH.

The SoProW project evaluates the laundry industry for both the technical and economic potential of integrating solar process heat. The role of Industrial Solar, with the support of Hohenstein Institute, is to focus this evaluation on industrial laundry steam networks as a foundation for analyzing solar thermal process heat integration solutions. Relevant findings from industry will be reported from an initial screening of 20 laundries, followed by case studies and detailed audits for

a selection of 10 laundries. The aim of the analysis is to describe typical steam systems in small and medium sized laundries in terms of characteristic parameters such as temperature and pressure levels, as well as boiler performance and steam flow. The project results will be included in the IEA-Task 49 "Solar Process Heat for Production and Advanced Applications".

Industrial Solar is looking for laundries interested in integrating solar thermal process heat into their laundry facility. The first step would be an initial evaluation of the energy use, followed by a system audit by an industry expert. If conditions are ideal, a fully subsidized preliminary engineering design will be carried out for their facility. This opens up the opportunity to implement the solar thermal system, which would be featured as a showcase for future projects.

Industrial Solar:

Industrial Solar GmbH was founded in the environment of the Fraunhofer Institute for Solar Energy Systems in Freiburg, Germany, and has focused on the development, production, and distribution of Fresnel collectors for solar production of industrial process heating and cooling in sunny countries. Since its founding in 1999, Industrial Solar has expanded the existing expertise in the field of concentrating solar thermal technology. Numerous systems have been installed since 2005 in Spain, Italy, Germany, and Qatar, among others. In 2012, Industrial Solar implemented four plants, three of which were located in Germany. The largest of these facilities has an aperture area of 484 m².

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