

Roman Osada

# House of clean Energy Application Centre for Renewable Energies – Hessen

What form can the energy turnaround and the energy mix of the future be expected to take? What new paths of technology and research promise to yield the most effective solutions? How will it be possible to ensure a reliable energy supply sufficient to safeguard the existence and further development of modern industrial societies? These are the questions which are dominating the political debate throughout the world.

## 1. Introduction

Future energy and climate policies must be centred round energy efficiency, intensive development of renewable energies, openness to new technological ideas, and energy research. At the same time, climate protection must be brought into line with the need for a safe and competitive energy supply. Renewable energies have thus become one of the most important issues in political circles. It is generally agreed that they will have an essential part to play in the energy mix of the future.

Germany made an early start with the promotion of renewable energies. Therefore companies in the German energy sector are nowadays reckoned among the world's leading solution providers. By implementing national and international projects and developing customised solutions, German companies have gathered a great deal of valuable experience over the years. They have a reputation on the world markets for innovative, practicable and efficient products, systems technologies and services. Under the motto "Increase exports – safeguard the future", the German Federal Government offers German providers assistance with their entry into interesting export markets.

Hessen's State Government is also committed to research and development with a view to realising innovative projects concerned with renewable energies. To this end competence centres have been set up in Hessen in order to establish regional consulting services for municipalities, households and companies by means of dialogue and knowledge transfer. These services are centred mainly around energy efficiency.

The major growth markets for the use of renewable energies are to be found overseas, chiefly in North America and Asia. To secure shares of these markets, it is crucial that technology suppliers in Hessen also should take continuous care to match their activities more closely to international demand.

## 2. Application Centre for Renewable Energies

If solution providers in Hessen are to establish themselves more firmly in these growth markets and consolidate or expand their shares in them, they continually must sharpen their international awareness. There is quite evidently a wish and a need

for an Application Centre for Renewable Energies. The advantage of an Application Centre would be the total practice-oriented business strategies of all its actors. It would constitute a presentation platform giving an opportunity to obtain detailed first-hand information on the state of the art and the operation of system technology. It would enable existing institutions, commercial enterprises and scientists to combine their networking activities and offer a central location which can make the results accessible to a wider public.

## 3. Deponiepark Flörsheim-Wicker

The "Deponiepark Flörsheim-Wicker", with its operating companies, its many



Figure 1: Photovoltaic system on a recultivated landfill field



Figure 2: Aerial view of Rhein-Main Deponiepark in Flörsheim-Wicker

years of experience in the operation of systems, its many different applications concentrated over a single site and its excellent transport connections, is an ideal location for an “Application Centre for Renewable Energies – Hessen”. Its attractive surroundings and the excellent infrastructure for welcoming and escorting visitors, supported by a qualified expert staff on the spot, are eminently suited for marketing Hessen internationally as a location and for strengthening the position of Hessen’s RE sector in the international competition. The nearness to further experts and providers in the sector, not to mention sci-

entific facilities, associations, and public and private institutions, offers further advantages in addition to the excellent facilities at the location itself. In the meantime, the output from Renewable Energies on the 85 hectare site amounts to 166.7 million kWh/year.

The location also offers researchers a practical environment for the testing and evaluation of new technological approaches and the optimisation of existing process technologies and there is an excellent environment for intensive, practice-oriented knowledge transfer too.

#### 4. House of clean Energy

In cooperation with the Hessian Ministry of Environment, Energy, Agriculture and Consumer Protection experts and suppliers from business, science and politics and from the associations set up an organisation under the brand “house of clean energy”. The first result was the founding of the Hessian Application Centre for Renewable Energies and Energy Efficiency in October 2011. This supporting association, with its registered directors Gerd Mehler, Roman Osada and Markus Töpfer, is responsible jointly with its elected board for operational activities and achievement of objectives. These objectives have been defined as follows:

- Providing commercial, scientific, social and political information to help increase public acceptance, e.g. examples of best practice
  - Building up a competence network and consulting service in Hessen, making use of existing institutions and fields of application
  - Introducing interested parties from abroad to the central location in Hessen and to its technology and service providers who will make the desired applications and information available
  - Promoting technology transfer, initiating cooperations and assisting Hessen’s solution providers with their entry into international markets
  - Enhancing synergy effects by combining activities with associations and regional and national organisations (Hessen Agentur, GIZ, export initiatives, the worldwide network of German Chambers of Commerce (AHKs), and many others besides)
  - Feasibility studies for model projects, consulting and support with licensing procedures
  - Developing and implementing national and international education programmes
  - Combining measures which are suitable also on international level for promoting Hessen as a business and academic location in the field of “renewable energies and energy efficiency”
- The Association and its actors would be glad to extend a welcome to new members interested in active cooperation towards achieving the aims set out above. Membership of the Association is open in principle to all natural and legal persons under private and public law willing to commit themselves to the aims of the Association.

#### Authors

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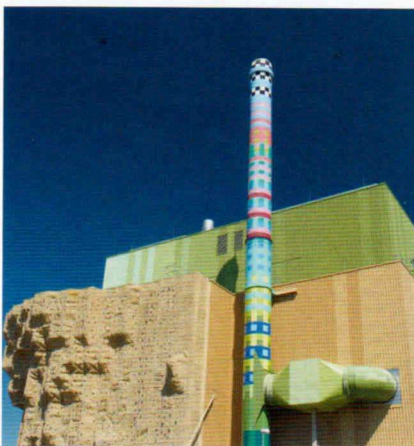


Figure 3: Biomass powerstation in Flörsheim Wicker