

THEVA INVESTS IN SUPERCONDUCTOR PLANT

Company doubles capacity to serve projects for the energy transition

Ismaning, August 14, 2015 – Just half a year after starting production, THEVA is doubling its capacity. “The processes have been established, the quality criteria have been met and process yield is growing. Production is going smoothly, so to speak,” says CEO Dr. Werner Prusseit. Following its first large order, the company now faces the challenge of producing in enough quantity. THEVA’s goal is to get the costs for superconductors down to the level of copper through volume production.

Demand has grown quickly, driven especially by the EU-backed EcoSwing project for the construction of the first wind turbine with superconductor technology for actual use. Dr. Prusseit expects demand to grow quickly, especially when the German government’s plans for the preferential expansion of the energy transmission grid using underground cables take concrete form.

“The advantages of superconducting technology aren’t just important for generators. Superconducting underground cables are being mentioned more and more in the current discussion of new power lines.” They are an interesting alternative to conventional overhead lines and underground cables for high voltage power transmission – superconductors can transmit many times more power through the same cross-section than conventional copper cables. They are almost loss-free and thus very energy efficient. Superconductors give off no heat to their surroundings, which is very important for agriculture. Furthermore, they can be built and installed compactly so that they generate no electromagnetic radiation in their surroundings.

The relatively high pricing of superconductors has heretofore argued against them. Dr. Prusseit notes in that regard, “going forward we can assume that as production volumes ramp up, economies of scale will cause prices for superconductors to drop rapidly, by a factor of 5 to 10.” THEVA is working hard to make it happen. Currently its superconductor production is divided into seven process steps and systems, and the company applies superconductors in two passes. “This slows things down and represents a real bottleneck,” says Dr. Prusseit. To remove this bottleneck the company is building a second coating facility, which will go into operation in November. “This will double our capacity and take us a step further towards volume production.”

About THEVA

With some 20 years of experience in coating and mechanical engineering, THEVA today has a unique approach in superconductor manufacturing, based on over fifteen years in research and testing. In 2012, the company boosted its resources through investments by Target Partners and capital investment company BayBG. With the new THEVA Pro-Line, the company is addressing central markets like renewable energy and manufacturing by means of keystone projects. The second step will see a focus on future-oriented applications in magnetic and drive technology.

THEVA Dünnschichttechnik GmbH was founded in 1996 and today has around 40 employees. Located in Germany, the company has a worldwide presence with contact partners in Asia, Russia and the US.

Press contact:

Adriana Olivotti and Alexandra Lachner
Raum für Technik GmbH & Co. KG
Schlagintweitstrasse 11
80638 München

T: +49 89 22 848 746
W: www.raumfuertechnik.com
M: info@raumfuertechnik.com