

Let your light shine upon us

**When architecture touches the soul**

Wedel, May 22, 2015 – The radiant connection between heaven and earth can literally be felt at the baptismal font of the Epiphany Church in Hannover, Germany. The architect expressed his creative sensibilities with the help of “solar painting” – an art form that the Wedel-based photovoltaic specialist solarnova has excelled at for decades.

Close to heaven

The visitors who look towards the sky in the small baptismal chapel in Hågewiesen can also see it: a roof made of photovoltaic glass elements was integrated into the wooden structure that was a later addition to the building. The system used is known as overhead glazing, which must meet the high safety standards of BIPV (building-integrated photovoltaic). The architect and module manufacturers jointly developed a special effect for those who gaze down at the stone floor of the chapel: they will discover the play of light and shadows cast from the solar cells are arranged in the shape of a cross. The symbolism significantly contributes to the unique atmosphere in the chapel, which also represents a commitment to the safeguarding of creation in the Epiphany Church.

The distance between the individual solar cells is known as surface density and can be freely selected in the PV glass elements produced by solarnova. This also applies to shape and color (the spectrum extends from a charcoal color to green or purple, and all the way to gold) – playing with colors and “painting” with light gives architects plenty of creative freedom. solarnova is among the few providers in Germany certified to produce such photovoltaic elements which are designed and manufactured according to individual customer requirements. Those who move between the poles of artistic freedom and functionality have an experienced and flexible partner at their side with the company that emerged from the research and development division of AEG. The Wedel-based experts know what is technically feasible and provide professional and reliable advice on individual BIPV ideas. Light incident and the degree of shading, which produce a creative interplay between light and shadow, can already be modulated specifically in the planning phase for roofs, facades or curtain walling panels. In addition, the photovoltaic system in the Hanoverian Chapel generates exactly enough electricity to fulfill the requirements for the large church and the attached baptismal chapel.

Besides producing energy, the solarnova elements also function as shading, weather protection, visual and sound insulation, and even as thermal insulation through insulated glazing in addition to generating power – how this works will be a topic during the Intersolar in Munich (June 10-12). solarnova can be found at booth 530R in Hall A1 at the joint stand with BMWi (Federal Ministry for Economics Affairs and Energy). Particularly exciting for architects: the Wedel-based company has made it to the final round of the Intersolar AWARD with a BIPV flagship project in Frankfurt. The idea behind it and its implementation will be introduced during a short presentation on the morning of the first day of the trade fair.

**Our latest press releases and pictures can be found at:**

**<http://solarnova.de/en/media.html>**

**About solarnova**

solarnova has been producing quality photovoltaic (PV) modules in Wedel near Hamburg, Germany since 1996. The original company founders came from the research and development division at AEG, which had already built one of the first PV production lines in Wedel at the beginning of the 1980s. The solutions produced here were used for specialized applications in aerospace and satellite technology.

**Press Release**

May 2015

**solarnova\***

solarnova has developed an excellent reputation worldwide, particularly as a manufacturer of individual modules for building-integrated photovoltaics (BIPV). BIPV not only complements conventional building materials, but also replaces them. In addition to generating power, building integrated PV also functions as shading, weather protection, visual and sound insulation, and even as thermal insulation through insulated glazing. solarnova is also a reliable OEM partner, has its own high-performance standard module series (SOL GT) and operates worldwide as an expert for turnkey fabs by providing service for the construction of turnkey module plants. Single and multi-purpose buildings, such as the EWE ARENA in Oldenburg (Germany), the PUMA Plaza in Herzogenaurach (Germany) and the Public Safety Building in Salt Lake City (USA) are also part of solarnova's portfolio.

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