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## Photovoltaic Equipment: Effects of the corona pandemic hit machine manufacturers hard

- **Total sales 1st quarter 2020: less than 50 percent of the previous year's level**
- **Order intake promises recovery**
- **90 percent of Asian orders come from China**

**Frankfurt, June 25, 2020** - The effects of the corona pandemic are reaching the photovoltaic machinery industry with full force, which is mainly reflected in the total sales of the first quarter of 2020. Compared to the previous quarter, this is down 55 percent, and 57 percent compared to the same quarter of the previous year. There has not been such a significant decrease since 2012, when the German photovoltaic market reached its rock bottom. However, incoming orders promise some recovery. 37 percent more orders were booked in the first quarter of 2020 than in the previous quarter. Full of confidence, PV machinery manufacturers expect this positive trend to continue. Depending on the development of the corona pandemic, the expected sales for this period could again come close to the total sales of the previous year's quarter.

### Most important export market is China

China occupies the top position of the most important sales markets in the export-oriented PV mechanical engineering industry. More than 90 percent of Asian incoming orders were booked in China. Malaysia, the second largest Asian sales market, accounting for only 4 percent. A look at the global order income shows that almost 90 percent of incoming orders come from Asia, whereas it is reported of only 5 percent domestic orders and 5 percent of orders from the USA.

This shows the serious global impact of the corona pandemic. While the sales recorded in Asia were significantly lower at 52 percent in the first quarter of 2020, the situation there is now expected to improve with a further increase in sales of 18 percentage points in the following quarter of 2020. In contrast, the full extent of the corona pandemic is now reflected in the reduction of sales in the European and US markets.

"As in the entire mechanical engineering industry, the globally interlinked value chains showed serious disruption and considerable fluctuations regarding different sales markets influenced by the corona pandemic. With an export ratio of over 90 percent, German PV machinery manufacturers are heavily dependent on functioning supply chains," says Dr. Jutta Trube, Division Manager of VDMA Photovoltaic Equipment.

### **Share of sales of thin-film photovoltaic systems stays stable**

With a 54 percent share of sales, thin-film photovoltaics equipment is again the strongest sales segment, followed by equipment for cells, which accounts for 45 percent of sales. The share of sales of production equipment for polysilicon, ingots, or wafers and for modules is less than 1 percent in each case.

Dr. Peter Fath, Managing Director of RCT Solutions GmbH and Chairman of the Executive Board of VDMA Photovoltaic Equipment, comments on the current situation: "As expected, the corona pandemic is having a negative impact on the booked sales of German photovoltaic equipment. However, the history of the German solar industry also offers opportunities, especially with regard to excellent German technology. Local content plays an important and decisive role and should be promoted at German and European level".

For further information please visit our [Website](#).

Do you still have questions? Dr. Susanne Herritsch, VDMA Photovoltaic Equipment, Phone +49 (0) 69 6603 1979, [susanne.herritsch@vdma.org](mailto:susanne.herritsch@vdma.org), is happy to answer your questions.

The VDMA represents around 3300 German and European companies in the mechanical engineering industry. The industry represents innovation, export orientation, medium-sized companies and employs around four million people in Europe, more than one million of them.