

New strategy for solar production required in Germany

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Meyer Burger and SMA are calling for an industrial strategy for the future of solar production in Germany. This could create 100,000 new jobs.

Meyer Burger and SMA have jointly developed recommendations for action for politicians for a national and European industrial strategy in the field of solar energy. In the whitepaper "[Solar production in Germany: Strategic innovation leadership as a cornerstone of European energy sovereignty](#)", the two companies outline approaches for expanding competitive value creation in Germany and Europe, based on local technologies and innovations.

Unlike in the past, the two companies are bringing the generation of electricity together with the production of the necessary technologies. "We have a rich and globally leading European research and development landscape. Without a strategic industrial policy approach to European solar production, we will in future be completely dependent on foreign suppliers," says Gunter Erfurt.

SMA and Meyer Burger propose four measures

Through cost reductions with simultaneous increases in output, decentralized generation close to the consumer and against the background of current political initiatives to protect the climate, solar energy is becoming the central key technology for future energy supply worldwide. Companies from Germany and Europe are leaders in research and technology development. Building on this, strengthening European production through a forward-looking industrial policy can be a successful export driver and create thousands of sustainable jobs.

Greentech made in Europe:

The funding instruments of national and European project and promotional banks should, in addition to solar power generation, start producing the technology. National and European economic stimulus programs to cope with the economic consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic and to transition to climate neutrality should support the regional production of solar technology.

Use the EEG reform as a component:

In order to be able to achieve the climate policy goals of the Paris Climate Agreement, the annual expansion target corridor of the EEG amendment should be increased to over 10 gigawatts. Self-consumption of PV electricity is an essential component of a

decentralized energy transition and should be promoted more. The first steps on the way to an advantageous prosumer society are a significant increase in the de minimis thresholds for exemption from the EEG surcharge as well as relief in the commercial and industrial sectors. In this way, SMEs that do not benefit from existing exemption regulations can also be strengthened.

For space-saving solar expansion:

Long-term land use concepts are required for the necessary expansion of solar energy. New technologies such as agricultural photovoltaics, in which agricultural areas are also used as solar locations, or floating PV on lakes are becoming increasingly important. The use of the most efficient technology is essential in order to gain as much energy as possible from a minimal area, both for roof systems and for open-space systems. In order not to get into similar conflicts as with wind energy on land, politicians should already intervene to control land use.

National Ten Million Roofs Program

A national ten million roofs program with a "solar obligation" for new buildings in combination with intelligent home storage systems, a further development and simplification of tenant electricity models as well as special tenders for large-scale solar systems in urban areas would be effective measures to increase the demand for solar electricity for building a safe, cost-effective one and climate-friendly energy supply. With a correspondingly higher level of ambition, a similar 100 million roofs program could be set up at the European level.

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