

## Press release

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### **„Leitstern“ (Lodestar) – Brandenburg receives for the second time in a row an award for the best concept for renewable energy**

- Prize for the best concept for Renewable Energies among the German Länder -

Today the Agency for Renewable Energies in Germany has assigned Brandenburg for the second time in a row with the “Leitstern” (Lodestar). With this prize the Agency has appreciated the achievements Brandenburg has made in the field of Renewable Energies. The Agency is supported by enterprises and associations in the sector of Renewable Energies. The award is based on a comparative study of the German Institute for Economic Research as well as of the Centre for Solar- and Hydrogen Research executed for all the German Länder.

**Ralf Christoffers**, Minister for Economic and European Affairs of the Land Brandenburg quoted on the occasion of the award ceremony: “The Land Brandenburg receives the prize for the second time – this is stimulation and responsibility at the same time. Renewable Energies belong to the future. The reinforced use of Renewable Energies is one of the central targets of the energy policy in Brandenburg and it is crucial for the ecological modernization of Brandenburg as a business location. We already achieved a lot. In the range of Renewable Energies about 12.000 new jobs in the industry, handcraft and services have been created. An ambitious further development of Renewable Energies is needed in order to achieve the targets set by our climate and energy policy. The award “Leitstern 2010” demonstrates that we have chosen the right path. We have to follow it with all the consequences and have to be very clear on it when we have to adjust our regional energy strategy.”

**Anita Tack**, Minister for Environment of the Land Brandenburg, underlined: “It is no coincidence that Brandenburg is awarded for the second time in a row with the “Leitstern”, but an appreciation for a consequent development into the direction of Renewable Energy. It is more than evident that Brandenburg is among the top-runners among the German Länder and is setting the benchmarks. Especially for the Ministry of Environment, which is the authorising body, the award is acknowledgement, affir-

mation and responsibility at the same time. These technologies for generating energy will be crucial in the future and in using them Brandenburg will ensure that future generations will have sustainable energy resources available as a basis for economic development and sound environment.”

**Steffen Kammradt**, Speaker of the Executive Board of the Brandenburg Economic Development Board (ZAB), confirmed: “This is the best news of the year for Brandenburg! With the second grant in a row of the “Oscar” for Renewable Energies the hard work and the commitment of all the people involved are more than acknowledged. Clean Technologies are becoming more and more an outstanding location factor for Brandenburg. The ZAB as Business Development and Energy Agency of the Land Brandenburg is taking the award as a stimulation to work even harder on the development of Brandenburg’s pole position in Germany in the field of Clean Technologies.”

For information:

Within the range of Renewable Energies Brandenburg is the front-runner in the field of wind-energy. Since 2001 the capacity of wind turbines has more than quadrupled. Nationwide Brandenburg is holding the second position after Lower Saxony with regard to the installed wind-energy (currently around 4300 MW). For 2020 the goal is to generate about 7500 MW from wind-energy. The energetic use of biomass has developed successfully: the number of biogas plants has increased from 2007 till the end of 2009 from 80 to 91.

Solar industry has also become one of the most innovative growth sectors in Brandenburg. More than 40 % of the solar modules produced in Germany are produced in the German Capital-Region. In Brandenburg several important photovoltaic plants have been erected – e. g. the Solarpark in Lieberoser Heide (with 53 MW the second largest PV-plant worldwide) and the solar electricity generation plant “Finow Tower” near to Eberswalde which represents the fifth largest open air PV plant in Germany. Further open air PV-plants with a similar scale are planned or under construction.

In the Uckermark – in the North of Brandenburg – the worldwide first hydrogen generation plant is under construction. In this case energy produced by wind-energy is stored via electrolysis in hydrogen. In times without wind this energy can be used tailored to suit market needs in a block heat and power plant.

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