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RENE X 2009 (5 to 8 November 2009):

RENE X 2009 in Istanbul: International trade fair for renewable energies

- Wind and solar energy on the rise in Turkey
- Law on the use of renewable energies expected to be passed this fall

Istanbul/Hannover. A new law on renewable energies will give wind and solar energy in particular a huge economic boost this year in Turkey. A significant increase in supply volumes is expected as a result, especially with regard to solar energy. The law is currently with the Turkish parliament awaiting signature and is due to be ratified in October of 2009, which will really spur on the market for wind and solar energy. This trend is already clearly evident in the run-up to RENE X 2009, the international trade fair for renewable energies. Amongst the companies that have already registered, the clear majority are manufacturers of wind and solar energy systems.

RENE X 2009 will be held from 5 to 8 November in Istanbul's Expo Center, close to the international airport, and is being organized by Deutsche Messe of Hannover, Germany, and Hannover-Messe Sodeks Fuarcilik A.S, Istanbul. About 200 exhibitors are expected to attend the premiere of this fair, including leading Turkish

manufacturers such as Isisan Isitma, Baymak, Form Temiz Enerji, Eziñç Metal, Merk Solar, Solen Solar and Fentek as well as international suppliers from Germany, Italy, Spain, Switzerland, China, Canada, Great Britain and Greece.

In addition to manufacturers of wind and solar energy systems, suppliers in the fields of geothermal energy, water supply and treatment, recycling and environmental technology, water heating systems and biofuels will also be represented at RENEX.

Huge potential for solar energy

Solar energy has been practiced in Turkey for quite some time. However, until now, it has been used mainly in private households and hotel complexes, primarily for heating water. There are only a few photovoltaic systems in Turkey, although the conditions for the use of solar energy are excellent because of the country's geographic location. According to EIE (Elektrik Isleri Etüt Idaresi) – the Turkish Electricity Survey and Development Administration – the potential for generating electricity from solar energy amounts to approximately 380bn KW/h a year. An increase in the rates payable for supplying such energy, as envisaged in the new law, would create huge investment opportunities.

Wind energy from coastal regions

The first wind turbine in Turkey commenced operations in 1998 and studies have shown that the coastal regions are particularly suitable for large wind power plants. A wind energy potential atlas for Turkey developed by the EIE (Turkish Electricity Survey and Development Administration) shows that the best locations are on the northern Aegean coast, the Marmara region and the western coast of the Black Sea. The potential production capacity is estimated at 80,000 MW, although the present installations produce only 146 MW. This indicates that there is a significant need for investment in this field as well. The major wind turbine

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manufacturers have already been aware of this potential for a long time and many of them are already active in Turkey.

Swiss-Turkish Economic Forum and NRW International

RENEX has also attracted considerable interest internationally. The Swiss Chamber of Commerce and the Swiss Consulate in Turkey are organizing the 5th Swiss-Turkish Economic Forum on "Renewable Energy Resources, Energy Efficiency and Opportunities" to run in parallel with RENEX. Moritz Leuenberger, a member of the Swiss Federal Council and Head of the Swiss Federal Department of Environment, Transport, Energy and Communication (DETEC), has already confirmed his participation.

Support for exhibitors at RENEX has also been forthcoming from Germany. For example, NRW International has provided small and medium-sized businesses with funds from the federal state of North Rhine-Westphalia to help them participate at RENEX 2009.

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