

Ciao Roma

In the past, KACO new energy had already been active in Italy with its own service office. Now, the company is strengthening its foothold. Since March 2010, the Germany-based inverter manufacturer is even closer to the Italian market with a local subsidiary near the Eternal City of Rome.

As soon as the 1950s KACO had established itself as the world's leading manufacturer of electro-mechanical choppers devices that are known as inverters today. When finally at the turn of the year 1998/99 Ralf Hofmann, Matthias Haag and about a dozen of employees leave KACO Group to form a company under the name KACO GERÄTETECHNIK GmbH, the success story in the sector of PV inverters is only to begin.

One of the early goals is the production of transformerless PV inverters for grid feeding. Of course, a company that is based on such a wide experience understands its business. Before the end of the first year, the company floats one of the very first transformerless inverters available on the market – the beginning of a success story that is meanwhile reflected in nearly 600 employees around the globe and the change of the company name into KACO new energy.

With a sales volume of 600 MW in 2009, KACO new energy is the second-largest inverter manufacturer in the world. In 2010, the company is expecting its sales to arrive at 1,500 MW. About 120 MW will be sold in Italy. In order to meet the continuously rising demand, KACO new energy has begun with the expansion of its production capacities up to 10 GW this year. Besides the Germany-based production facility, which serves the European markets, KACO new energy also produces in North America.

The latest innovations by KACO new energy are the three-phase inverters of the Powador TR3 and TL3 series that provide high-quality sinusoidal alternating current with a 120-degree phase shift. The TR3 series for an AC power range of 12 to 15 kW features an integrated transformer. The transformerless units of the TL3 series cover a range from 9 to 12 kW. The transformerless three-phase inverters offered by KACO pres-

ently include the Powador 25000xi, 30000xi and 33000xi. Three MPP controllers make the inverters highly flexible and, as a result, widely popular.

Powador inverters from KACO are among the market leaders when it comes to quality and degree of efficiency. Even in rainy Germany, solar systems with Powador inverters arrive at yields of up to 1,200 kWh/kWp per year. The central inverters of the Powador XP series are virtually predestined for the implementation in large-scale systems with high energy yields in southern Italy. In Foggia, Apulia, the company has realized a 25 MW project with its Powador megawatt stations. Each station consists of three Powador XP350-HV TL central inverters joined with a medium voltage transformer in a concrete housing.

But also in the area of string inverters, KACO new energy offers products particularly well-suited for the Italian market. Electricity that can be fed in without transformers is subject to a connection limit of 20 kW in Italy. The ideal solution: a trio of the Powador 6650xi inverters enables symmetrical feed-in precisely at the connection limit. This solution is only one demonstration of KACO's flexibility in reacting to different market and customer requirements.

For KACO new energy, Italy in particular is a key strategic market. Since political parties across the board are meanwhile in favour of the Italian Renewable Energy Law, the inverter manufacturer decided to establish its own subsidiary and to strengthen its investments. With this aim, KACO new energy Italia S.r.l. was founded on March 11th 2010 and is led by Flavio Cecchi and Daniele Berretta. Corresponding to the weight of the Italian market, the company's former service office this way was turned into an independent subsidiary based in the neighbourhood of the Eternal City.

Among the reference installations realised with KACO inverters is this one in Sanarica.

Photos: KACO new energy

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