Ulrich Hadding
Board Member for Finance, HR and Legal
Dear Readers,

Since SMA was founded, sustainability has been an essential part of its corporate mission statement. We understand sustainability as combining long-term economic success with protection of the environment and social responsibility.

Our product solutions are essential for a worldwide, sustainable, decentralized and renewable energy supply and thus make a significant contribution to combating global climate change. In our actions, we maintain a balance between economic, environmental and social aspects.

Our sense of identity includes satisfied employees thanks to an attractive corporate culture, a fair and honest business policy, social commitment, exemplary handling of environmental issues and resources, and the use of renewable energy sources at all levels of the value chain.

That is why we have made sustainability an integral element of our corporate strategy. This means that sustainability is a fundamental part of all our decisions. The sustainability mission statement provides the necessary frame of reference for this. It is reviewed regularly and is not a static system.

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The SMA sustainability model is based on a combination of long-term financial success, environmental protection and social responsibility for safeguarding the livelihoods of future generations.

To SMA, sustainable business means securing the long-term success of the company by means of a responsible and respectful approach to resources and the environment while making greater use of decentralized, renewable energies across the whole of the value chain. A fair and honest business policy and nationwide commitment each form part of our sense of identity.
Vision and Mission on Sustainability

Vision: Our solutions, which are manufactured in an environmentally friendly and resource-conserving way, allow for a worldwide, sustainable, decentralized and renewable (decarbonized) energy supply and thus make a significant contribution to combating global climate change. We set ourselves apart in our business activities by ensuring that all our activities are sustainable and striking a balance between economic, environmental and social aspects. SMA is thus a trailblazer in more ways than one when it comes to sustainability.

Mission: To ensure that our vision becomes a reality, we develop solutions and growth on the basis of sustainable principles. We make our performance in sustainability evident at both company and product level.

» We create more value with fewer resources. In doing so, we support positive factors and work to reduce negative ones. By continuing to widen the gap between these two factors, we are making our company more sustainable.

» We are constantly increasing the sustainability of our products and solutions. We also work tirelessly to optimize and evaluate them on the basis of defined sustainability criteria.
Core topics for sustainable development

The four action areas of Products & Processes, Employees, Environment & Energy and Social Responsibility are the essential elements of our commitment to sustainability. In terms of content, they relate both to factors at corporate level and to factors at product level. We use our regular sustainability reporting to achieve transparency in implementation and ongoing development on the basis of these four action areas.
Products and Processes

Financially successful – sustainably innovative – top quality throughout the value chain

Customer satisfaction is the basis for the long-term financial success of SMA. With our significant capacity for innovation and quality along the entire value chain, we develop sustainable products and processes that meet the changing demands of an increasingly digitalized world, as well as requirements for sustainability and a circular economy.

Essential factors include:
» Continuous improvement of quality, including product safety
» Waste reduction in all business processes
» Achieving a comprehensive circular economy
» Increasing customer satisfaction
» Sustainable profitability and limited capital tie-up
» Innovation and digitization
Employees

Acting openly and dependably – transparency for all employees – involvement in decisions

SMA is addressing radical developments such as rapid digitalization in energy supply and “Work 4.0” with sustainable personnel development to encourage new skills and areas of expertise. SMA gives its employees opportunities for lifelong learning and customized training, provides dedicated support to talented staff and opens up long-term prospects for development. SMA is committed to equal opportunities and promotes collaboration. Occupational safety and health management as well as a health promotion policy and workplace rehabilitation management are part of the sustainable safeguarding of SMA’s future.

Essential factors include:
- A culture of transparency and feedback
- Lifelong learning and targeted development
- Continuously increasing diversity
- Performance-based remuneration for motivated employees
- Attractive employer and exemplary occupational safety and health management
Increasing the use of decentralized renewable energies twice as sustainably while conserving resources

SMA will continuously reduce its use of resources in terms of raw materials, energy, mobility and waste along the entire value chain and increase its use of renewable resources in respect of energy, environmentally friendly materials, sustainable forms of mobility, recycling and re-use. This will be taken into consideration right from the development of new products and solutions.

Essential factors include:
» Increasing resource efficiency throughout the entire product life cycle
» Preventive environmental protection rather than trying to mitigate the effects after the fact
» Excellence in energy management
» Sustainable mobility inside and outside SMA
Social Responsibility

Achieving financial success through responsible conduct in line with international legislation as well as nationwide commitment

As a global company, SMA meets its societal and moral responsibilities to all relevant stakeholders. Internationally applicable laws and principles, such as the UN Global Compact, apply both to our locations and to the entire supply chain. We are a member of national and international organizations and associations to promote the growth of renewable energy sources.

Essential factors include:
» Responsibility along the entire supply chain
» Compliance with all international regulations – fair and transparent along the entire value chain
» Corporate Social Responsibility – global engagement
» Transparent dialog with stakeholders