



## SMA Solar Technology AG press release

### **SMA welcomes Vice-Chancellor Olaf Scholz to the 40th anniversary celebrations and inaugurates “Energy Transition Square”**

Niestetal, September 2, 2021 – 40 years of passion and commitment to renewable energies: SMA Solar Technology AG (SMA) today celebrated its 40th anniversary together with associates and representatives from the worlds of business and politics. Among those offering their congratulations was Vice-Chancellor Olaf Scholz (SPD), who gave a speech in which he stressed the urgent need to expand renewable energies in Germany. The company also held a special ceremony inaugurating the new “Energy Transition Square.” The event was rounded off with a panel discussion under the title “Energy Transition – Now! What Can We Contribute?” In addition to SMA CEO Jürgen Reinert and Rebecca Freitag, Ambassador for the Rights for Future Generations, Bundestag members Timon Gremmels (SPD) and Jürgen Trittin (Die Grünen) along with industry representatives discussed the challenges and opportunities presented by the energy transition.

“40 years of SMA – that’s four decades of technological progress and innovative courage,” says SMA Chief Executive Officer Jürgen Reinert. “The founders of SMA believed that a world in which everyone is supplied with safe, sustainable energy from renewable sources is possible. Since its founding, SMA has played an integral role in the energy transition. And it is more important today than ever to cover the rising electricity demand from climate-neutral sources. This is why we are calling upon the future German Federal Government to at least triple the expansion of photovoltaics. At the same time, the framework conditions must be established for facilitating the rapid, urgently required transition to a climate-neutral economy with strong added value and job growth in the field of renewable energies in Germany. ‘Energy Transition Square’ underlines our goal of driving forward the energy transition in the future, too, through technological innovation and a comprehensive sustainability strategy. This inauguration also further reinforces our commitment to our base here in northern Hesse.”

#### **“We need this industry, which expands and promotes renewable energies”**

Olaf Scholz was deeply impressed with SMA’s 40-year success story and focused in his speech on the expansion of renewable energies. “We want Germany to be climate-neutral in less than 25 years. To achieve this, we need a lot more electricity than today – and this must come from renewable energies. We have to significantly accelerate their expansion and rapidly upgrade the utility grid so that the electricity is delivered to exactly where it’s needed. We need



this industry, which expands and promotes renewable energies, to ensure that Germany remains – even in 20 to 30 years’ time – an industry hub offering outstanding employment opportunities. Germany has the opportunity to play a pioneering role and demonstrate how a nation can transition from nuclear power and coal to generating more power from renewable energies.”

**“SMA is transforming the region into a platform for the energy solutions of the future”**

On behalf of the city of Kassel, mayor Christian Geselle also congratulated SMA on its anniversary, saying, “SMA is a success story and, as the biggest company in the German solar power industry, a major economic player here in northern Hesse. Thanks to the pioneering efforts of the company’s founders, the strategic farsightedness of the management team and the dedication of the employees, SMA is transforming Kassel and the local region into a platform for the energy solutions of the future. We are proud that, through its expertise and innovative prowess, SMA is helping to shape the global energy transition.”

In his speech, Jürgen Reinert emphasized that SMA’s technological innovations are continuing to set the standard in the solar power industry – a vital precondition for the growth of renewable energies. Thanks to its innovative strength and outstanding corporate culture, SMA is today among the world’s leading specialists in energy solutions and storage technology. As a company at the epicenter of the energy transition, SMA is in an excellent position to make the most of the enormous market potential of renewable energies and photovoltaics now and in the future.

**About SMA**

As a leading global specialist in photovoltaic and storage system technology, the SMA Group is setting the standards today for the decentralized and renewable energy supply of tomorrow. SMA’s portfolio contains a wide range of efficient PV and battery inverters, holistic system solutions for PV and battery-storage systems of all power classes, intelligent energy management systems and charging solutions for electric vehicles and power-to-gas applications. Digital energy services as well as extensive services up to and including operation and maintenance services for PV power plants round off SMA’s range. SMA inverters with a total output of more than 100 gigawatts have been installed in more than 190 countries worldwide. SMA’s multi-award-winning technology is protected by more than 1,600 patents and utility models. Since 2008, the Group’s parent company, SMA Solar Technology AG, has been listed on the Prime Standard of the Frankfurt Stock Exchange (S92) and is listed on the TecDAX index.



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