

## 8 German firms eye solar projects in Phl

By [Ma. Elisa P. Osorio](#) (The Philippine Star) Updated November 17, 2011 12:00 AM

MANILA, Philippines - The European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP), German-Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GPCCI), and the Deutschen Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH yesterday said they are bringing to the country eight leading German solar power firms to explore possible [business opportunities](#).

The German companies are coming to the Philippines under the “renewables – made in Germany” program of the German [government](#) which is spearheading a drive to promote renewable energy in Southeast Asia.

ECCP vice president for external affairs Henry Schumacher said the German companies are interested in setting up partnerships for solar [energy development](#) in the country.

“Germany is a world leader in renewable energy technology and they are coming to the Philippines to look for potential partners and [projects](#),” Schumacher said.

Three of the eight companies, Hoppecke Batterien GmbH & Co. KG, Schott Solar AG, and Sonnenwerft GmbH already have an established presence in Asia with operations in China, India, Indonesia, Japan Korea, Malaysia, Singapore, Taiwan, and Thailand.

The other five companies including Donauer Solartechnik Vertriebs GmbH, Energiebau Solarstromsysteme GmbH, IBC Solar AG, Inutec Solarzentrum GmbH i.G., and SMA Solar Technology AG are all coming over to the region looking for business opportunities for the first time.

“These companies export as much as \$100 million in solar technology annually. We are confident that if they find the business environment in the country conducive for investing in renewable energy then they will stay for the long term and increase their presence,” Schumacher said.

The Philippines has one of the highest potential for solar energy generation in Southeast Asia but is being held back by the lack of implementation of the Renewable Energy Law.

Solar energy is being primed by the government as an alternate source of energy and is projected under the [National Renewable Energy](#) Plan to contribute 1,528 megawatts by 2030.

The eight German companies are looking for opportunities to contribute towards bridging the solar energy gap as solar energy currently contributes only two megawatts – the lowest among the renewable energy mix in the country.

Aside from meeting potential business partners in the country, the eight German companies are also scheduled to hold high level talks with the Board of Investment (BOI), Department of Energy (DOE), financial, and educational institution officials.

“This will be the first of a series of visits from German renewable energy firms. In 2012, we are bringing to the country German companies involved in biomass and biogas,” Schumacher said.

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