

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Cleve Hill Solar Park](#)
Subject: Deadline 3 Submission - Experience
Date: 31 July 2019 14:26:18
Attachments: [REDACTED]

Dear Hefin,

Please find attached my written submission on Experience following the Open Floor Hearing on 22 July 2019.

Please let me know if you require any further information.

Kind regards,

Marie

Open Floor Hearing – 22 July 2019

Marie King, Graveney resident

I had originally planned to voice my concerns about the applicant's experience to build and operate a development of this size and type. However, the examiners kindly included most of this in their questioning at the Need hearing last week.

The outstanding concern I have, that wasn't covered, is about a comment made in Wirsol's press release on 25 January 2016 which announced agreement for a 60MW solar farm in Scandinavia. This included, and I quote, "the photovoltaic plant is also the first project, since WIRSOL's fresh start in the year 2013, for which the project planners have obtained secure financial backing.....".

I have been unable to find any reference to this fresh start on the Wirsol website but Wikipedia included, and I quote, "Between October 2013 and January 2014, several subsidiaries of the company initiated insolvency proceedings. Assets including the brand name were acquired by Wircon GmbH."

In view of the size of the proposed development, and the amount of investment required, I believe we should be provided with full details of how this situation arose and some assurances that this situation will not be repeated in the future.

The relevant articles / information is included below.

<https://wirsol.co.uk/wirsol-and-landesbank-baden-wuerttemberg-conclude-deal-to-finance-biggest-solar-park-in-scandinavia/>



Financial partnership between project planners and LBBW set to run for 15 years



Waghäusel, Germany / Lerchenborg, Denmark. Approximately 60 million kilowatt hours of electricity is being generated by the biggest solar park in Scandinavia – sufficient energy to provide green power to around 30,000 private households. Situated in Lerchenborg in Denmark, the solar park has been connected to the grid since December 2015. It was built by the project engineering company and energy supplier WIRSOL, based in Waghäusel, Germany. But it isn't just the successful completion of what is the Baden-Württemberg company's biggest solar park to date that offers cause for celebration. The photovoltaic plant is also the first project, since WIRSOL's fresh start in the year 2013, for which the project planners have obtained secure financial backing for 15 years from Landesbank Baden-Württemberg (LBBW) – the Baden-Württemberg federal state bank.

'We are very pleased at being able to finance such a big project in partnership with LBBW,' says Peter Vest, Managing Director of WIRSOL. Over an area of more than 80 hectares, on the Baltic coast at about an hour's distance from Copenhagen, the company has constructed 248,730 solar modules and around 1750 inverters, making it the biggest solar park in Scandinavia. 'Past experience has shown that by working with LBBW we can set up successful and customised financing arrangements for our projects.'

LBBW has been involved in the area of renewable energy for many years. The bank has structured and financed numerous projects both within Germany and abroad. 'This is LBBW's first financing of a photovoltaic project in Denmark. The customer-specific and holistic transaction comprises not just bridge financing and financing to completion, it also incorporates currency hedging arrangements and a precisely defined foreign currency and cash management structure,' says Andreas Sahl, head of LBBW's Large Corporates division.

WIRSOL sees the solar park in Lerchenborg as being just the curtain-raiser for many further projects in its European target markets. 'The plant on the Baltic coast gives a good impression of what we are capable of as a company,' Peter Vest explains, and goes on: 'The Lerchenborg project is clear confirmation that WIRSOL is admirably set up to meet the future – both in its own right as a company, and on the basis of its partners and backers.'

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Wirsol

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

WIRSOL Solar AG (German pronunciation: [ˈvɪʁzɔl]) is an international solar energy provider, specialized in the planning, financing, construction and maintenance of solar power plants of any size. The headquarters of the company is in Germany. Further company offices are located in Spain, Italy, Great Britain, Belgium, Switzerland, Canada, USA, China, Malaysia and the Maldives.^[2]

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Company history

The company was founded in **Waghäusel** (District of **Karlsruhe** in Germany) in February 2003 by Markus Wirth, Hans Wirth and Stefan Riel as the "Hausenovierer GmbH", where the headquarters of the firm are also located. Having specialized in the area of photovoltaics, the firm was renamed "Wirth Solar AG" in January 2004 and from this arose the name "Wirsol Solar AG" in 2007. In the same year, the company opened the Bruhrain solar test park in close proximity to the company premises. A total surface area of 12 hectares made it the biggest solar park in the state of **Baden-Württemberg** at the time. With 31,000 modules installed, the plant generates an output of up to 2.258 MWp and provides 500 households with electricity. This corresponds to a yearly CO₂ saving of around 1300 tons.

In 2010, the board of directors was expanded by company founders Markus Wirth and Stefan Riel. Since then, Bernd Kästner has been the chief financial officer. Nikolaus Krane, previously part of the **Conergy** board, oversees international financial products, large-scale project financing and international marketing and communication. In April 2010, Wirsol installed a photovoltaic system at the German Formula One race track **Hockenheimring** with a rated output of 848.88 kWp. Along the 405 m-long race tracks, 4716 solar modules were installed.^[3]

In 2011, the solar energy company generated a turnover of 317 million Euros. Wirsol finalized one of its largest projects in this financial year in **Mixdorf**, in **Brandenburg**. The company built a system with a peak performance of 24.1 MWp on the 81-hectare site of a former Russian fuel depot. Likewise, in 2012, Wirsol connected the high-output **Luckau Solar Park** (with almost 21 MWp) to the grid on a conversion site in Brandenburg. The solar power plant originated from the former military airport called **Altenu**. As a result, over 4500 households can be provided with energy.^[citation needed]

On a global level, Wirsol is responsible for the installation of over 6200 solar systems with a total output of 440 MWp. Systems in operation reach a total CO₂ saving of over 180,000 tons per year. So as to further promote good business relations with Asia, Wirsol co-founder Stefan Riel relocated to **Beijing** as the first top-manager of the German solar sector and created a company location in China with Wirsol Solar Technology Beijing Ltd.^[4] In June 2012, Wirsol opened a location in **Kuala Lumpur** in Malaysia to coordinate activities in Southeast Asia.

Between October 2013 and January 2014, several subsidiaries of the company initiated insolvency proceedings. Assets including the brand name were acquired by **Wircon GmbH** (founded by **Dietmar Hopp**) in March 2014.^[5]

Portfolio

Wirsol Solar AG covers all technical and commercial aspects of solar energy from advice, planning, installation and maintenance to service and financing.

Wirsol's core competences:

- Solar power plants for private households
- Solar power plants for companies and industrial applications
- Solar Energy Investments
- Commerce with components and complete systems
- Operations & Maintenance
- Hybrid systems / Substitution of Diesel

International Projects

Worldwide, Wirsol is active in a variety of projects. The company founded the joint venture named "Wirsol RE Maldives" with REM (Renewable Energy Maldives), where solar power stations have already been installed on six of the Maldivian islands and where electricity is supplied to schools and hospitals.^[6] Further significant international projects have been finalized by Wirsol in Spain (**Barcelona**, **Bovera**), Italy (**Mola di Bari**), Belgium (**Schilde**), (**Jambes**) and **Colorado** (Fort Collins).^[7]

Sponsoring

From 2011/2012 **Bundesliga** soccer season, Wirsol Solar AG has been the official sponsor of **TSG 1899 Hoffenheim**. In **Sinsheim**, Wirsol gave the **Wirsol Rhein-Neckar Arena** its name. This is where 1899 Hoffenheim hold their home games.^[8] Since the second half of the 2019/20 season, the stadium got a new naming partner.^[9] The former **Wirsol Rhein-Neckar-Arena** is now called **PreZero Arena**, which is a brand of German Green Cycle GmbH.^[10]

References

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- ↑ "Solar energy provider Wirsol collaborates with 1899 Hoffenheim" (German). *Achtzehn99.de*. 2011-07-22. Retrieved 1 October 2012.
- ↑ Hoffenheim, TSG 1899. "Partners". *www.achtzehn99.de*.

WIRSOL Solar AG



Type	Privately held company
Industry	Renewable energy, photovoltaics, wind power
Founded	2003
Founder	Markus Wirth, Hans Wirth, Stefan Riel
Headquarters	Waghäusel, Germany
Key people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Markus Wirth Mark Hogan Nikolaus Krane Bernd Kästner
Revenue	€317 million (2011) ^[1]
Number of employees	270 (2012)
Website	wirsol.com ⓘ



Wirsol solar test park Bruhrain

10. ^ "Stadion der TSG 1899 Hoffenheim heißt jetzt Pre Zero Arena" [@](#). 16 January 2019 – via [www.welt.de](#).

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