

## **German Energy Efficiency**

**Auckland, December 2009 –Patrick Specht from the German *Ministry of Economics and Technology* spoke to members and clients of the New Zealand German Business Association (NZGBA) on the Status Quo regarding Energy Efficiency in Germany.**

“It is timely to have somebody here who can inform us about energy efficiency initiatives” said Monique Surges, CEO of the NZGBA when introducing the speaker.

“We are very lucky at this end of the world. We take it for granted to have an intact environment”, continued Surges. If you take a look at Germany, a country only slightly bigger than New Zealand, with more than 82 million inhabitants, you begin to realize the need to think more seriously about the environment and techniques to protect it.

Patrick Specht a member of the team working on the *Energy Efficiency made in Germany initiative* introduced the principles of this initiative to the audience.

In times of scarce fossil fuel resources and continually rising energy prices, economic prosperity and competitiveness depend more than ever on the ability to use energy more efficiently - not just in Germany, but all around the world. The use of innovative technology holds enormous potential for energy conservation in every field of application. Companies, private households and the public sector can tap unimagined resources through the efficient use of energy.

“The major goal of our initiative is to establish contacts between German and foreign companies”, he said. This means in particular

- Solutions in the field of energy efficiency,
- New energy efficiency technology,
- Improvement of existing technology,
- New concepts of efficient ways of using energy.

Germany enjoys an outstanding reputation throughout the world for its high-quality technical products and its

practical expertise, particularly in the field of energy efficiency. The initiative intends to help bring energy efficiency know-how and experience to other countries, with multiple benefits: to save energy costs, enhance the countries economic competitiveness and make a positive contribution to the international climate protection.

“Know how transfer is very important”, argued Specht, especially into the hands of political decision-makers, key opinion leaders and market participants.

He then concentrated on energy efficiency in buildings. “Six different energy efficiency key aspects of buildings can be highlighted”, he said. These are

- Type of building
- Geographical Position
- Building materials and insulation
- Windows
- Ventilation
- Heating Systems.

Considerable energy savings are possible in all these key aspects, if one takes energy efficiency measures into consideration.

“We have a long experience in efficiency technologies and consider ourselves the international market leader and chief innovator,” said Specht. This is reflected in the high number of patent applications lodged in this area by German companies.

“Another example: the world’s market for condensing boiler technology which is deployed in central-heating boilers and achieves efficiencies of almost 100 per cent, is served almost exclusively by the German heating industry (90 %)” he continued.

“Knowledge was built up over years – knowledge you can profit from”, he concluded.

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