



European Solar Prize 2016

EUROSOLAR awards the
European Solar Prize 2016 to

Interfloat Corporation

for

the economic transformation in the declining coal region of Lusatia
by fulfilling a corporate structural change

Barcelona, 18th November 2016

Prof. Peter Droege DI TUM MAAS MIT
President EUROSOLAR



EUROPEAN SOLAR PRIZE 2016



Interfloat Corporation *Principality of Liechtenstein*

Industrial and commercial companies or farmers

Best-practice example of an economic transformation in a declining coal region, by fulfilling a corporate structural change in Lusatia

Lusatia is a large European region along the German-Polish border in the state of Brandenburg surrounding the German capital, Berlin. It has been the focus of intensive brown coal mining for more than two generations. Some of Europe's dirtiest coal fired power plants sit in Lusatia and yet, the region is also home to some of Europe's most hopeful examples of economic change based on - and driving - the renewable energy revolution.

One of these forward looking examples is Glasmanufaktur Brandenburg (GMB). It is a large European manufacturer of solar glass, whose parent company Interfloat Corporation was founded in 1982 by Josef Weikinger. As the first European importer of solar glass from the USA, the company invested in the research and development of innovative solar glass and has evolved from a long-term trading partner for

the solar industry to a producer and reliable investor in Brandenburg. In 2008 Interfloat built its own solar glass factory (GMB) in Lusatia, establishing, defending and advancing an important bridgehead for the European solar industry - holding a 40 percent market share.

The energy transition has mostly winners, but there are also losers. In the transformation away from fossil fuels and nuclear power, strategies are needed to replace the energy infrastructure and move from centralized to distributed power. Developing a new economy, building new supply regions and founding nurture local, regional and global communities based on renewable energy are the main tasks in the social and economical changing process.

With successfully establishing a large production facility and with employing hundreds of skilled workers, Interfloat is a most significant player in pioneering an European regional energy and economic transformation in Lusatia - from the ground up. While governments sleep, industry can act!



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