

MARCH 2021 ISSUE

eeq JOURNAL

NEWS FROM ENERGIEQUELLE

FINLAND

FIRST KILOWATT HOURS
FED INTO THE GRID

10 YEARS FELDHEIM

THE ONLY ENERGY SELF-
SUFFICIENT VILLAGE IN GERMANY

COMPANY CELEBRATIONS

FIRST EMPLOYEES
20 YEARS ON BOARD

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*Dear readers,
dear friends of
Energiequelle,*

I am especially proud of this edition of our eqJOURNAL. Alongside the news that the first kilowatt hours of electricity were fed into the grid in Finland at the end of last year, we honour four colleagues who have been with us now for two decades and are the first employees to have reached this milestone. Together with my former partner Joachim Uecker, my wife Doreen and myself, they were “the first”. I am grateful for their unremitting commitment, their loyalty and the exciting journey that has brought us to where we are today.

One of our most successful projects celebrated its 10th anniversary last year. In 2010, Feldheim, a village belonging to Treuenbrietzen in Brandenburg, entered the history books as Germany’s first energy self-sufficient village, which it still is today. We played a leading role in the planning and implementation of this innovative and challenging project and drove it forward from the initial idea to commissioning.

I am also delighted that we have achieved a number of awards. An external audit has again earned us EMAS certification, our customers have given our operational management team top marks for their services and the Creditreform credit reference agency has awarded us an excellent credit rating.



Last but not least, we have an update for you on some of our current projects and interviews with Encavis Asset Management AG and the ThEGA, two of Energiequelle’s partners.

Enjoy!

Michael Raschemann
Managing Director and Owner of Energiequelle

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FIRST KILOWATT HOURS FED INTO FINNISH ELECTRICITY GRID
PALTUSMÄKI WIND FARM COMMISSIONED,
KONTTISUO UNDER CONSTRUCTION



OUR NORDIC SUCCESS STORY

It is a milestone in the history of our company. After entering the Finnish market five years ago, we fed the first kilowatt hours (kWh) of green electricity generated by Energiequelle into the Finnish grid at the end of last year. The electricity comes from the Paltusmäki wind farm in the North Ostrobothnia region, three kilometres from the coast. Five Enercon L-147 wind turbines, each with 4.3 MW of rated power and a hub height of 132 metres have been commissioned and in future will generate around 75.5 million kWh of sustainable electricity annually.

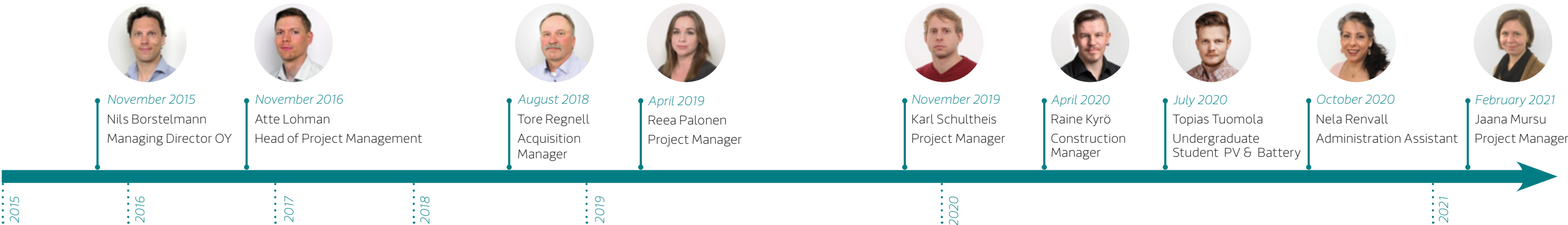
The construction of our second wind farm has also begun. In Konttisuo, in South Ostrobothnia, the foundations as well as most of the access roads and sites for cranes are ready. The construction of seven Nordex N149 turbines with a total rated power of 29.96 MW will be completed by the end of 2021. Building work will also begin this year on two further projects with 74.1 MW in total. More than 1,000 MW are in the pipeline for the next few years.

We definitely made the right decision to venture onto the Finnish market five years ago. There is huge potential in terms of land available, while good wind conditions and planning guidelines make it possible to build without government subsidies. This, of course, brings new challenges, for example the marketing of the electricity via power purchase agreements.

Around 5.5 million people currently live in Finland and most of them are open to the prospect of using renewable energies, as is the government. That said, to date only around 2,500 MW of wind power have been commissioned – accounting for just 9% of the total electricity produced – although Finland aims to be climate-neutral by 2035.

Nils Borstelmann, Managing Director of our Finnish subsidiary is delighted not only that our projects are so successful, but also that his team has grown. During the early years, he was very lonely in his office in Helsinki, but in the meantime he has eight colleagues. “Because of Corona, I rarely get to meet my colleagues face-to-face at the moment, but then digitalisation is already more advanced in Finland than in Germany”, the 38 year old with German and Finnish nationality tells us with a twinkle in his eye. So one field where the Finns are ahead of us. Jatketaan samaan malliin! Keep it up!

Our Team
in Finland

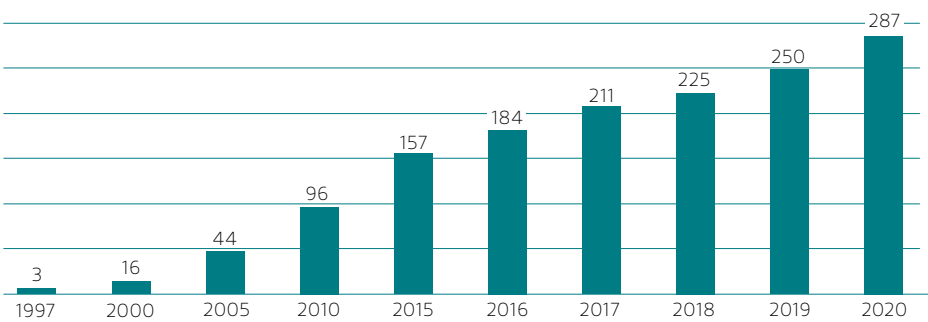


20 YEARS AT ENERGIEQUELLE

LOYAL COLLEAGUES UND A SPECIAL ATMOSPHERE

Energiequelle has been active on the renewable energies market since 1997. The company's founder Michael Raschemann, his wife Doreen and Joachim Uecker from Bremen developed their first projects sitting around a kitchen table. The first employees joined Energiequelle after the turn of the century and this year are celebrating 20 years of service with the company. Our managing director, "Micha" is proud that so many loyal colleagues have gone down this professional and sometimes also private road with him. Three years ago the company celebrated its 20th anniversary, this year it is the turn of the first members of staff.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT



Roswitha Nagel joined Energiequelle in 2000 as an assistant and since then has carried out all the duties of a secretary. She is a very calm person, very precise and reliable – qualities which also stand her in good stead in her capacity as a safety officer in our Kallinchen office. She is the first employee to celebrate 20 years with the company and would like to stay with us until she retires at the end of next year. We are delighted to hear that!



René Just began his career at Energiequelle on 1 January 2001. For a long time he was responsible for project development and today is Vice President of the Business Development Department. As such, he focuses on energy efficiency solutions, sector coupling and power-to-x projects. He is politically active, a sportsman and always ready to lend a helping hand. With so many commitments, he could surely use a few more hours in the day.

Appreciation of long-serving employees

Long-serving employees are valued highly at Energiequelle. Once they have completed ten years of service, in addition to a cash benefit, they are allocated two more days' holiday every five years. After 20 years that means 36 days holiday!

Moreover, we invite them once a year to our Energiequelle round table. At our headquarters in Kallinchen we have an "anniversary board", on which a photograph and the signature of everyone who has been with the company for 20 years are displayed.

Our colleagues obviously appreciate all of this, as over 20% of them have been with Energiequelle for longer than 10 years.



Lars Schiller has been with Energiequelle since 1 February 2001 and is Vice President of Operational Management. He is responsible for 60 employees and 700 power plants. He organises our annual beach volleyball tournament and during his 20 years with the company has not once handed in a sick note. He met his wife Nancy at Energiequelle and in January they became the proud parents of a baby boy. Congratulations!



Heike Wohltmann is the "old hand" in the Bremen office. Ever since her first day with the company, she been responsible for organisation and documentation and her work has always been meticulous. Previously the director's assistant in Bremen, today she works in the sales department. With her cheerful, direct and humorous manner she is a very popular colleague. And when she brings her dog into the office, there's never a dull moment.

Over **20%**
of our employees
have been with us
for more than
10 years

The average age of our employees is 42 – men as well as women. Interesting is that our staff in Finland are on average 5 years younger and those in France 2 years younger than their German counterparts. At 42, we lie just below the average in Germany, which is 43 years.

Otherwise the atmosphere at Energiequelle is anything other than average. It is informal and unconventional. We keep our word, we listen, our doors are always open and communication is on a personal level. Our managing director sets a good example for what is an important part of our corporate culture.

At the moment we have almost three hundred employees at 15 locations. Forty-four colleagues have joined us within the past year alone.

You would like to join our special team? We publish all our vacancies here:

www.energiequelle.de/en/careers

CURRENT PROJECTS

Despite Corona, 2020 was a successful year for Energiequelle. By the end of December, we generated a turnover of 80 million euros. 14 wind turbines with around 49 MW, a photovoltaic power plant with 750 kWp and a large substation contributed to this result. Our success is continuing in 2021. We have chosen two projects that will be implemented this year:

PERMISSION BELLE

Federal State:	North Rhine Westfalia
Wind turbines:	5 x Enercon E-147 EP5
Hub height:	E2 155m
Rated power:	5 MW
Permission granted:	02.12.2020
Tender:	Waiting for tender result from 01.02.2021
Construction:	To commence autumn 2021
Commissioning:	Summer 2022



CONSTRUCTION HELLBERGE

Federal State:	Brandenburg
Wind turbines:	3 x Enercon E-138 EP3 E1
Hub height:	131 m
Rated power:	10.5 MW (3 x 3.5 MW)
Permission granted:	25.10.2019
Tender:	Contract awarded 01.02.2020
Construction:	Access roads completed, preparation of foundations has begun
Commissioning:	Q4 2021

Special features of the project:

- Expansion of an existing wind farm to include 115 wind turbines
- Strong community involvement beforehand, with support from the Competence Centre for Nature Conservation and Energy Transition (KNE)
- To avoid interference with a military flight radar, a so-called flight manager at the airport will be used to control the turbines when necessary



ENCAVIS ASSET MANAGEMENT AG INVESTOR IN RENEWABLE ENERGIES

Encavis Asset Management is a leading asset management company for investment in renewable energies. As a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Encavis AG, which is listed in the SDAX, it provides institutional investors with fund solutions on this growing market.

Climate change or rather environmental protection is one of the greatest challenges of our time. No other subject is as widely discussed globally. Sustainability has already achieved worldwide importance and the EU Commission under its new President has adopted the “Green Deal”, which should see Europe become the first climate neutral continent by 2050.

However, a significant reduction in CO2 emissions can only be achieved through a systematic move away from traditional energy production methods. The share of electricity from renewable sources is already well above 40%. At the same time, however, demand is increasing, owing to new technologies such as digitalisation, e-mobility and smart buildings. This growth is taking place at exactly the same time as governments and societies worldwide are demanding a reduction in CO2 levels. We are working on investment structures and funds directly in line with this development, and, together with our institutional investors, are driving the energy transition forward through the generation of electricity from solar and wind power.

Our own portfolio and those of our customers can be relied on to deliver clean energy. Our first priority is to be competent in what we do and to succeed in managing business opportunities and risks in a controlled way. Making renewable energies investable for the various investor groups, for example banks and insurance companies – with a strong focus on regulatory requirements – follows close behind.

In all of this, we need trustworthy business partners. Over the years, we have come to know Energiequelle well and to value our business relationship highly.

During the past eighteen months, we have together implemented four successful projects. Throughout, Energiequelle have been a professional and competent partner on an equal footing with ourselves.

We have also both recognised another marked development. Parallel to the move from conventional to sustainable electricity production, renewable energies are becoming increasingly competitive on the market, owing to the reduced cost of components and the increasing efficiency of the power plants. In the meantime, they have become one of the most cost-effective ways to generate electricity.

In view of this, there is nothing to stand in the way of the cooperation between Energiequelle and Encavis Asset Management continuing successfully in the future. Together we are driving the energy transition forward and making our contribution to environmental protection. “Our hearts beat for renewable energies”.



KARSTEN MIETH
Board Spokesman

ENCAVIS
ASSET MANAGEMENT



THE ENERGY SELF-SUFFICIENT VILLAGE 10 YEARS FELDHEIM

Still unique today and our biggest milestone

In the village of Feldheim, a district of the town of Treuenbrietzen in Brandenburg, we have implemented one of the most spectacular all-round concepts for a decentralised, sustainable energy supply to businesses, private homes and the community.

The success of the project is thanks to the excellent co-operation between the town of Treuenbrietzen, the residents of the village and the project developer, Energiequelle.

The nearby wind farm with its 55 wind turbines supplies most of the electricity used in the village, while heat for the local heating grid is generated in the biogas plant. On especially cold days, a modern woodchip burner and a power-to-heat plant deliver additional heat. Moreover, in September 2015, together with Enercon, we commissioned the then largest battery storage system (regulatory power plant) in Europe.

Energiequelle GmbH planned the components of the project, implemented them as turnkey solutions and finally installed the infrastructure for a local energy supply network. The inauguration was celebrated in 2010. Since then, we regularly welcome visitors from all over the world to the tranquil little village of Feldheim.

Visit us to find out more:
www.nef-feldheim.info



PETRA RICHTER
Feldheim Village Representative



We are proud of what have achieved with Energiequelle in Feldheim. As an energy self-sufficient village, we are best-prepared for the future, when we will hand down the benefits of environmentally friendly electricity and heating to our children and grandchildren. In doing so, we are making our contribution to the energy transition.

Our Feldheim Success Story

- ✓ Electricity from a wind farm with 55 wind turbines
- ✓ System services: frequency control of the 50 Hertz transmission grid through provision of primary control power via a 10 MW energy storage system
- ✓ Heating from a biogas plant
- ✓ Additional heat on demand from a woodchip burner and a power-to-heat plant.

E-MOBILITY: OUR INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADE DEVELOPMENT OF A CHARGING STATION WITH A SMART CHARGING MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

In order to keep pace with the growing number of electric vehicles in our fleet, in August last year we began to expand the charging infrastructure at our head office in Kallinchen. 25 AC and 2 DC charging points were added, bringing the total to 35 AC and 4 DC points. The existing points were upgraded to the latest technology and integrated into the new charging infrastructure.

Almost 300 metres of new 3-phase cable were laid and the sub-distribution boards adapted. The full expansion of our charging infrastructure was successfully completed in November. The project was developed and implemented in co-operation with EA EnergieArchitektur GmbH and uesa EA Ladesystem GmbH. Both companies will continue to support Energiequelle in their charging infrastructure projects in the future.

In order to balance the grid connection load, a dynamic load management system was implemented, which controls the charging points. In addition, we are working on the development and introduction of a smart load management system. This management system should deliver an optimised plan for the usage of each individual AC or DC charging point, based on generation and consumption forecasts, and in keeping with grid restrictions. It should also be possible to prioritise charging processes. In view of the overall increase in the number of charging points, we visualise this kind of load management system becoming indispensable to operators or owners of charging stations.

E-mobility is moving forward!



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INTERVIEW

with Ramona Rothe from the Thuringia Energy and GreenTech Agency (ThEGA)

Ramona Rothe was born on 30. November 1971 und has two grown-up children. Following seventeen years' experience in project development in the wind power sector in Thuringia and actively supporting the BWE Regional Association Thuringia, she joined the Thuringia Energy and GreenTech Agency GmbH in 2015. In her position as Wind Energy Service Centre Manager, Ms Rothe advocates regional added value and fair involvement in wind energy projects in Thuringia. Shaping the energy transition together sustainably and with the involvement of all stakeholders, while recognizing and fostering the opportunities that arise locally, is a matter very close to her heart.

FRAU ROTHE, WHAT IS THE CURRENT POLITICAL SITUATION IN THURINGIA AND WHAT ARE THE TARGETS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF WIND ENERGY?

In Thuringia there are currently 841 wind turbines in operation, with a rated power of 1,670 MW in total. Last year, it was only possible to build 16 turbines, repowering included. According to the core energy market data register, 11 turbines were decommissioned in 2020.

By 2040, Thuringia hopes to generate all its power from renewable energies. The framework policy for the expansion of wind energy did not improve significantly last year, although it is stipulated in the Thuringian Climate Protection Law that 1% of the land be given over to wind energy. The regional plan for East Thuringia was approved during the last quarter of the year, with 22 priority areas. Of these designated areas, 40% are forest locations. An application by the FDP to amend the Forest Act was also approved during the final quarter of 2020. Consequently, the construction of wind turbines in forests is prohibited until further notice. It follows then, that the regional plan for East Thuringia is lagging far behind the federal state's 1% specification. North and Southwest Thuringia are still working on completion of their second drafts. This is likely to be especially difficult for Southwest Thuringia, because there also, a large section on "wind energy in the forest" was included in the original plan.

Other challenges concern the ruling on separation distance between wind farms and housing. The CDU in Thuringia has applied for a minimum distance of 1,000 metres from residential areas. We would like to see communities be given more room for manoeuvre and freedom of choice. Especially in communities with wind farms that were installed during the early days of the Renewable Energies Act, there is a much more perceptible level of acceptance. 355 wind turbines in Thuringia will lose their feed-in tariff payments during the next five years. We need smart investment concepts, repowering and continued operation. But above all, we need a reliable framework policy from the German federal and state governments.

THE THURINGIAN GOVERNMENT HAS COMMISSIONED A META-ANALYSIS ON LAND DESIGNATION. WHAT CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT IT?

The specification by the Thuringian government that wind turbines be built on 1% of the state's land has not yet been met by any of the regional planning groups in the 4 regions. Which target should apply to which region is currently being examined more closely in the meta-analysis. The analysis should make it possible to provide the regional planning consortia with realistic targets for expansion. When exactly the results of the meta-analysis will be made public, is still not known to us in the Service Centre.

Desirable would be the inclusion of quantity targets for the individual planning regions in the state development plan (LEP) for 2021, in order to gain commitment to the implementation of the 1% target.

THE THEGA AWARDS THE "PARTNER FOR FAIR WIND ENERGY IN THURINGIA" SEAL OF APPROVAL, WHICH WAS GIVEN TO ENERGIEQUELLE IN 2016. WHICH OBLIGATIONS DOES THIS ACCOLADE BRING WITH IT?

The ThEGA established its wind energy service centre in 2015. The reason behind it was not only to provide competent counselling for individuals and communities, but also to ensure solidarity with the project developers.

To this end, the "Partner for Fair Wind Energy" seal of approval was awarded for the first time in 2016. Planners and project developers commit themselves to fulfilling the five requirements set out in the award guidelines, which are fairness, community and citizen engagement, close co-operation and transparency. Energiequelle was one of the first of the 44 companies that have received the award to date. We are delighted with their always exemplary and appreciative co-operation. Energiequelle is flying the flag

in Thuringia! At this point we would like to say thank you, especially to the staff in the regional office in Erfurt, who we can always rely on to work with us constructively for the expansion of wind energy in Thuringia.

WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS ON THE OPTION APPROVED IN THE RENEWABLE ENERGIES ACT OF PAYING BENEFITS TO COMMUNITIES AND CITIZENS, IN ORDER TO INCREASE THE ACCEPTANCE OF WIND PROJECTS?

In the wind energy service department, we feel that §36k of the REA 2021, which allows for communities to become financially involved, is a long overdue step towards higher acceptance. Giving communities the opportunity to engage is an important step towards gaining their support. We are convinced that where the turbines are turning is where there should be community engagement and benefits. Unfortunately the application of §36k is optional and not compulsory. The service department has already discussed including §36k in the 5th guideline of the award with its "partners for fair wind energy". Energiequelle already offers communities in Thuringia this opportunity.

WHAT NEW DEVELOPMENTS DO YOU EXPECT IN 2021?

The Thuringian government has allocated 2 million euros of its budget to a citizens' energy fund. It is important to the ThEGA that, alongside communities, we also support local energy co-operatives. Working together with everyone involved in wind energy to ensure greater opportunity for local engagement and more benefit will, in turn, lead to higher acceptance of wind energy projects in Thuringia.

For 2021, there are some very important issues which we need to address. Key words are post FiT-solutions, supporting community energy groups, hydrogen, reliable planning conditions for wind energy projects and above all "fair wind sharing".

Thank you for this interview, your untiring dedication and your support!



RAMONA ROTHE
Wind Energy Service Centre Manager

AWARD-WINNING ENERGIEQUELLE



Excellent Credit Rating

Since 2016, we have been awarded a CrefoZert solvency certificate every year. In 2020, we were once again classed as having “an excellent credit rating”. The certificate is issued by the Creditreform credit agency, a leading expert in Germany for the assessment of company creditworthiness. The 3-step certification process, involves examination of the company’s credit rating index, an analysis of year-end accounts and a questionnaire. The assessment has repeatedly shown Energiequelle to have an excellent rating structure and to fulfil all certification criteria. Only 1.7% of German companies meet the strict criteria of the CrefoZert.



Environmental Impact Assessment by EMAS

As a company, we place a lot of importance on environmental management and are committed to reducing our environment impact to a minimum. Energiequelle’s offices in Kallinchen and Bremen have been listed in the EMAS register since 11 November 2018. In order to retain our EMAS certificate, our environmental statement must be validated annually by an external environmental auditor. Before this can happen, we have to successfully complete internal and external audits. The Potsdam Chamber of Commerce and Industry, which is responsible for us, has confirmed that we will remain in the register. It is important to us that our contractors, e.g. manufacturers, service providers and suppliers also adhere to our sustainability principles. For this reason we include external companies and their products in our environmental management system.

Another excellent result for our operational management

We want to carry on improving our services and to develop them further. For this reason at the end of 2020 – as we do regularly – we invited our customers to participate in a customer satisfaction survey to evaluate our operational management services. We asked our customers how satisfied they are with our technical and commercial services and our communication. We asked them, for example, to rate us on reachability, reliability and response times. Other questions concerned fault and repair management and payment processing.

We are delighted with our score of 1.3. On a scale of 1–6, this is a very good result for us. The recommendation rate is even 100%. Once again, the accessibility, professional competence and friendliness of the contact persons were highlighted. 68 percent of respondents said that services had improved once again since the last survey. Thank you for participating and for the excellent score!



LARS SCHILLER

Vice President
Operational Management

“

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Editor: Energiequelle GmbH, Hauptstraße 44, 15806 Zossen, T +49 3376 98 71 0

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Energiequelle GmbH

Head Office Kallinchen near Berlin

Hauptstraße 44
15806 Zossen OT Kallinchen
T +49 33769 871 0

Bremen

Heriwardstraße 15
28759 Bremen
T +49 421 626 769 0

and many other locations.

www.energiequelle.de
info@energiequelle.de

