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World Economic Forum in Davos:

Katharina David gives an interview on the role and prospects of solar energy

Katharina David, CEO of K2 Systems GmbH, was interviewed on the subject of solar energy in connection with the World Economic Forum in Davos. Experts from business, politics and the media have been meeting in Davos since Monday to discuss controversial topics. For the first time, a "Climate Hub Davos" is also being organised at this annual meeting. The Managing Director of the Renningen-based mounting system manufacturer answered TV presenter Andrew Wilson's questions about the future of solar energy and talked to him about the European market leader's strategy.

As part of "The Forum Interviews" series, which is published by the Reuters agency, Katharina David emphasised how important cooperation with partners along the value chain is for the medium-sized company. The aim is to connect strengths and realise PV projects more quickly and safely through joint solutions in order to drive forward the energy transition.

Not only the modular mounting systems, which offer maximum application flexibility, are crucial to the company's success, but above all the establishment of a digital ecosystem. From K2 Base as a planning tool to the K2 DocuApp and the K2 Resource Centre, planners and installers are provided with a free and completely digital workflow. "In view of the great demand for skilled labour, the K2 Resource Center offers the ideal platform to acquire valuable knowledge. Our success proves us right, because in 2023 alone, career changers and PV professionals took advantage of our offers with over 1.1 million sessions."

With the market launch of the K2 Buddy, the company has taken a big step towards its self-imposed goal of becoming the most digital mounting system providers. The globally unique, IoT-based product is a live mechanical monitoring system that measures the snow load on modules. The user receives a warning via push message if a defined value is exceeded. This not only reduces maintenance costs, but also prevents potential damage caused by excessive snow loads, "in the interests of conserving resources and sustainability", as David emphasises.

In view of the forecasts published by the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) and SolarPower Europe, the expert is optimistic about the future: "There is enormous potential: we need a further sharp increase in the share of solar energy if we want to meet global energy demand and at the same time drive forward decarbonisation in order to achieve climate targets." In her opinion, however, this would require free trade. David spoke out against trade restrictions and in favour of a European resilience programme.



Connecting Strength

With regard to those working in the solar industry, the Managing Director also emphasised: "No AI in the world can install solar modules. As a society, we need to value these manual activities of installers more, because having enough qualified workers will be the decisive factor in the future."

The full interview is available online at <https://www.reuters.com/plus/acumen-stories/wef/k2-systems>.



Katharina David, CEO K2 Systems, appeals: "We all have a responsibility to preserve the earth as a planet worth living on. We can no longer waste time. We need to combine our strengths and act together now."

About K2 Systems: We connect strengths: innovative mounting systems, digital technology and people with the know-how and energy to drive sustainable solutions.

Since 2004, K2 Systems has stood for global power generation from solar energy. The heart is the development of easy-to-install mounting systems that are precisely tailored to the needs of our customers. The soul is the common spirit of all employees. Together, we define technical innovation and set new service standards digitally as well.

At our headquarters in Renningen and our nine international locations, we develop and sell mounting systems together with 400 employees for the photovoltaic systems of this world.

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