

Ruggell, 27. July 2023

URBANBOX - New photovoltaic solution has been successfully validated as part of an INNOSUISSE project, supported by the Climate Foundation Switzerland

Ruggell/Winterthur - The team of the two ZHAW institutes IEFE and IMES of the School of Engineering together with Iworks AG from Liechtenstein have successfully validated the URBANBOX photovoltaic solution as a part of an Innosuisse project supported by the Swiss Climate Foundation. The team, led by Professors Prof. Dr. Franz Baumgartner and Prof. Dr. Robert Eberlein, consisted of seven highly qualified engineers.

The validation of URBANBOX included the implementation of a unique fully-automated PV module cleaning system at the demonstration plant as well as the performance of an FMEA (Failure Mode and Effects Analysis) with corresponding optimizations and the lifetime validation of key components. An important focus was also on the development of an optical solution for measuring the degree of dirt on the PV modules. The first phase of the endurance test of the demonstration plant in Bendern, Liechtenstein, was successfully completed.

URBANBOX is a breakthrough photovoltaic solution that aims to offer municipalities and companies the opportunity to massively increase their self-supply of sustainable solar power through the dual use of available land. The innovative technology enables easy integration in urban areas and allows to exploit this huge potential for the economic generation of sustainable solar power.

Prof. Dr. Franz Baumgartner, Institute for Energy Systems and Fluid Engineering (IEFE), head of the Energy and Environmental Engineering program, expressed his enthusiasm about the successful validation of URBANBOX: "With this milestone, the economic dual use of land in urban areas for solar power generation is already foreseeable next year. Companies and municipalities will thus have another effective way to reduce their carbon footprint and contribute to the energy transition."

URBANBOX has the potential to revolutionize the use of solar energy in urban environments and drive the sustainability of our cities. The joint team of the ZHAW Institutes IEFE and IMES together with Iworks AG is now ready to move into the next project phase and to realize a fully industrialized URBANBOX solution on the achieved basis for commercial deployment in 2024.

URBANBOX™



About URBANBOX:

URBANBOX, a product of Iworks AG, is a new innovative photovoltaic solution designed specifically for use in urban environments. It offers the possibility of easy integration in urban environments and the economic generation of solar energy. URBANBOX thus contributes to the reduction of the carbon footprint and supports the sustainability goals of cities.

About ZHAW:

The ZHAW (Zurich University of Applied Sciences) is one of Switzerland's leading universities of applied sciences with a wide range of education, research and development activities. The IEFE and IMES institutes are part of the School of Engineering located in Winterthur and are dedicated to researching and developing innovative technologies for a sustainable future.

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