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Plumbing AFRICA


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Accredited training

SEG has stepped up to the plate and is offering a Construction Education and Training Authority (CETA) accredited solar course.

By: Lesego Maletse

SEG Solar Energy's solar academy - Solac is offering their solar accredited course in association with reputable training provider, WaterSmith. During the first week of the four days CETA accredited training, there were only six trainees, consisting of three plumbers and three business owners coming from as far as Limpopo and Durban. The number is ideal for the solar academy to start with because of the diverse group says Theresa Sebastian, marketing manager. However, she points out that their aim is at least a minimum quantity of 15 students per group as the demand for the training grows. Training facilitator, Mario de Freitas says the aim is to fill the place up continuously and the company will create a demand for the training course by promoting their products to the market.

Business owners in the group are interested in learning more about solar as other plan to start solar company while others need more applied knowledge about the business which they operate in. "People want to advance themselves," says Theresa. Business owners will thereafter enroll their licensed plumbers for the course.

The plumbers have installed solar but do not have the qualifications to be solar installers. De Freitas says because not all the students are plumbers, they provide the trainees with basic, theoretical training on SANS O1254 as it ties in with SANS 10106. This however does not mean they can issue a certificate of compliance.

De Freitas, the training facilitator says there is a big shortage of solar installers in South Africa with many solar companies.

BACK – UP FROM HIGH RANKS

Werner Sebastian, C.E.O of SEG Solar Energy says the academy will expand with the substantial investment between the company and the Austrian government. The training is considered as phase one of the company's plans. Phase two will be the roll out of jobs. Werner says the timing for training is NOW as solar is the solution for saving energy and people can only get jobs if they are educated and have the relevant training.

TRAINING COURSE

Two days are dedicated to theory and the other two for practicals. Before they can qualify, the trainees have to compile a portfolio of ten systems. If the trainees do not submit their ten assessed assignments where they assisted with installations, they will not be qualified.

Each assignment will provide a summary of which solar application the trainee installed as well as description of the site and the details of the customer for reference purpose. We want to revolutionise the industry says de Freitas, the market has been injured by bad solar installations, poor quality products and incorrect products for applications. Some people do not trust solar for these reasons and this is the purpose of this training course – to address those issues.

What is the significance of completing our courses?

Become a Plumbing Industry Registration Board (PIRB) qualified solar installer (T & C's apply)
Rightful approval to install SEG Solar Energy Systems
Become a Certified Solar Energy partner
Participate in the Eskom rebate programme

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SEG SOLAR - THE COMPANY

SEG Solar Energy is a subsidiary of Austrian company with the same name. The South African company is managed by the C.E.O Werner Sebastian, who's been in the solar market for many years. The Austrian manufacturer produces solar hot water systems and photovoltaic solar panels, distributed by their South African counterparts in Southern Africa and Africa expansively. The products are distributed to a network of dealers and plumbers, who will in turn sell the products and in some instances, install them. The company is striving to reach as many people as possible with their solar thermal and photovoltaic systems. The dealers and suppliers selling the products have the complete range of solar thermal and photovoltaic solar energy systems with all the other components in their stores, providing the end-users with ready-to-use systems. This also makes life easier for the end-user, who can order from one supplier, receiving a tailored product range and one standard of service among other benefits.

PRODUCT SELECTION

The products are produced to stringent European quality criteria ensuring that the components are compatible with each other. For superior energy efficiency and a reliable service, all the components have been fine tuned to each other from the collector down to the last fitting. Hot water sets (mini sub heading)

This solution is the best starting point to optimally harness the sun's energy. With the excellent quality pumped systems, household water is stored in this vertical tank which requires easy installations and maintenance. The tank sizes range from 200 -1000 litre tanks.

Heat sets

South Africa's excellent weather conditions make life a little easier for the hot water and back –up heating kits. In the winter period, the sun's radiation will be saved during daytime with the comfort of a heated house due to under floor heating or wall mounted radiators. With this technology, a house can be heated independently without the use of electricity. The fresh water module generates the desired quantity of fresh, hygienic hot water as required.

Pool heating sets

Various pool heating sets are available for swimming pools up to 30 000 l. The sets can be purchased to function individually or it could be incorporated into one of the solar heating sets. The kits consists of a heat exchanger, solar pump with or without Mediterano collectors.



Power sets

The power sets include high quality photovoltaic modules made with a specialized light and stable aluminum. These polycrystalline modules based a 6" wafers are manufactured exclusively in Austria using the most sophisticated equipment. An advantage with this Product is that each individual module has an output report of flash log tests.

The frame collector

This frame collector, Mediterano, lives up to its name as it handles different weather conditions; it can be used in maritime and desert conditions. The absorbers are equipped with a corrosion resistant coating to protect against the sea-air and the ventilation system prevents the sand from permeating the unit. The collector has four connections and it can be connected to different combinations while reducing piping installations. The gross surface area is 2, 3 m², available at an unbelievable price of R3 750, 00 excl. Vat per collector.

1. Students actively involved with the required practicals for the course

2. The six member group with facilitator, Mario de Freitas (Sitting, right)

3. Learning the basics in the classroom about solar water heating

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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