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The sun as cooling agent: Solar refrigerator for medicine to manage without socket

Osnabrück (ots) -

Cooler for medicine and vaccines to meet WHO standards - health and environmental protection - DBU promotes with approximately 50,000 FUR

Medicine is a "sensitive plant": it dislikes high temperatures. Vaccines are similarly sensitive. Both is difficult on longer transports in developing countries where electricity is not constantly available. Now the company va-Q-tec from Würzburg takes a first step towards solving the problem: developing a vacuum-insulated refrigerator for medicine using solar energy as cooling agent -supported by the Deutsche Bundesstiftung Umwelt DBU and in co-operation with the Baden-Württemberg company Phocos. Objective: A solar cooler that meets the demands of the World Health Organisation (WHO). "The safe transport of medicine is vital. This project goes a step further and combines health- and environmental protection", says DBU Secretary General Dr. Fritz Brickwedde. The DBU promotes the project with 50.000 Euro.

Basis of the new refrigerator is a very efficient insulation developed by va-Q-tec and working by means of a vacuum. "We use fine-porous quartz powder which is pressed to plates and then wrapped with an aluminium foil," says the physicist Dr. Joachim Kuhn from va-Q-tec. "Finally all air is sucked out." The result: an ideal insulation. Now, the fiddlers from va-O-tec and Phocos want to construct a cooler using that excellent insulation which can be supplied by solar energy.

For full text and pictures, please see www.dbu.de.

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Contact:

Deutsche Bundesstiftung Umwelt Franz-Georg Elpers (Pressesprecher) An der Bornau 2 49090 Osnabrück Telefon: 0541/9633-521 Fax: 0541/9633-198

E-Mail: presse@dbu.de Internet: www.dbu.de

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