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Quality assurance in Passive House – Construction workers join the club

Wolfgang Feist officially handed over the first "Certified Passive House Tradesman" Certificate on 27 February in Traunstein, Germany.

Darmstadt/Traunstein, 27 February 2012 – From 23 to 25 January 2012, the Passive House Institute's very first advanced training course for on-site construction workers or *tradesmen* took place in Traunstein, Germany. This Certified Passive House Tradesman certification follows in the footsteps the Certified Passive House Designer qualification, which, after a successful begin in 2007, has resulted in more than 2000 trained an certified Passive House Designers. The Certified Passive House Tradesman certification provides an ideal qualification opportunity for construction professionals.

The three-day training course, concluding with an examination leading to the Certified Passive House Tradesman Certificate, aims to provide construction tradesmen with knowledge of the structural physics and the fundamental pertinent to the construction of Passive Houses, and to thereby ensure high quality work on-site. "This will drive excellence in construction as well as countless new ideas for an even better and more reliable execution; ultimately, it is the tradesmen themselves who know best", explained Wolfgang Feist, Director of the Passive House Institute, at the start of the successful event.

A total of 18 tradesmen including carpenters, window fitters and electricians took part in the pilot event at the training centre of the Traunstein Chamber of Trade, organised by the Rosenheim-Traunstein Passive House Group. All participants were paid keen attention to the course content and successfully passed the concluding examination. Franz Freundorfer, Director of the Rosenheim-Traunstein Passive House Group, was very enthusiastic about the highly motivated participants. "Many of them carried their own heavily annotated lecture notes into the examination room". Wolfgang Feist felt validated by this development: "It is obviously a source of motivation for the participants that they play an essential and responsible role in the implementation and that their work is taken seriously. That's exactly how it should be!"

On 27 February 2012 in Traunstein, Wolfgang Feist personally awarded the certificates to the successful graduates in a celebration attended by Mayor Manfred Kösterke and State Parliament Member Klaus Steiner. On this occasion, Lebensraum Holz, a member of the Rosenheim-Traunstein Passive House Group, was also awarded a certificate for their Certified Passive House wall and construction system, a great pleasure as every new product certification adds to the range of energy efficient components and thus adds value regionally.

Further information about the training course and a list of the Certified Passive House Tradesman certificate holders will soon be available on www.passivehouse-trades.org.

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