Press Release 27 March 2012

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EnerPHit exterior insulation and finish system:

New Passive House Institute certification for existing buildings

Darmstadt, 27 March 2012 – The Passive House Institute is introducing a new offer to assist with the planning of retrofits aiming for **EnerPHit** certificate, the Passive House Institute's energy retrofit certification: manufacturers of insulation systems can now have their products certified as EnerPHit Insulation Systems for use in EnerPHit projects. For this certification, manufacturers will develop EnerPHit-relevant insulation solutions for the entire building envelope in cooperation with the Passive House Institute; this is initially only planned for use in cool temperate climates (e.g. Central Europe). This includes recommended sample solutions for a number of connection details typical of older buildings along with information about the relevant thermal bridge coefficients (Psi value). "For these details, thermal bridges needn't be calculated for certification and the designer can be certain that implementation meets the EnerPHit certification requirements for buildings", explains Zeno Bastian, scientific advisor at the Passive House Institute.

High-quality renovations become even more attractive through the use of highly-efficient components: the level of comfort offered to the the residents/users increases noticeably and energy use is significantly reduced. Photo: © Passive

The first such component certificate was awarded to Saint-Gobain ISOVER's EnerPHit insulation system for existing

solid constructions, an exterior insulation and finish system. Different insulation approaches are being considered for the roof, the uppermost ceiling and the basement ceiling, depending on the existing construction. Further certifications are currently being processed.

Information about certified EnerPHit insulation systems and the certification criteria will soon be available in English for download on the Passive House Institute website under the heading *Certification* (www.passivehouse.com).

EnerPHit: Quality assurance in retrofits

Thermal bridge free design is one of the basic principles of Passive House planning, yet, in the case of existing buildings, it is not always possible. Some unavoidable thermal bridges usually remain after an energy-efficient modernisation, especially at basement walls. Accordingly, the heating demand of an existing building that has been completely retrofitted using Passive House components is slightly higher that that of a Passive House new build.

The Passive House Institute (PHI) has developed the EnerPHit Standard for such buildings. Since last year, it has been possible to certify existing buildings modernised with Passive House components in accordance with the EnerPHit Standard. Among other things, mitigation of any remaining thermal bridges as far as is possible, both in terms of feasibility and cost, is a prerequisite.

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