

Solar facades on high-rise buildings – SKALA modules absorb the high wind loads

SKALA modules for solar facades from AVANCIS receive general building authority approval (abZ) for wind loads up to 6 kN/m²

Torgau, September 14, 2023: AVANCIS – leading manufacturer of premium thin-film modules for building-integrated photovoltaics (BIPV) – has received an extended general building approval (abZ) for the innovative SKALA solar modules from the German Institute for Building Technology (DIBt). Depending on the product type, the modules can be used for wind loads of up to 6 kN/m² from now on. This opens up further attractive potential for architects and planners, especially in the design of aesthetic solar facades on high-rise buildings.

More design freedom for energy-generating facades on high-rise buildings

Back in 2015, the SKALA photovoltaic system produced in Germany was the first glued frameless laminated glass module of its kind to receive an abZ. Since 2020, AVANCIS has also been holding an abZ for the SKALA solar modules for high wind loads of up to 3.3 kN/m². Thus, the system could already be installed on high-rise facades up to 100 m high. With the new approval issued by DIBt on July 18, 2023, the abZ is now extended to wind loads of up to 6 kN/m². Specifically, this means that depending on the location and architecture of the building, SKALA solar modules can now also be used safely and permanently on ventilated curtain facades at heights of several hundred meters.

A perfect synthesis of design, quality and building code

With the expansion, the entire SKALA product family of high-performance CIGS thin-film technology is now covered by an abZ. In addition to the new and particularly wind-stable SKALA S, the product family includes the terracotta-colored SKALA Solid solar modules for on-roof or façade mounting, which will be available shortly, and the SKALA Industry product type, which was specially developed for commercial buildings and industrial façades. The extended approval also opens up new possibilities for the front design of the modules. AVANCIS Director of Sales & Marketing Augustin Rohr explains: "SKALA combines first-class design and highest quality with the requirements of building code. In addition to the PV standards covered by the IEC (International Electrotechnical Commission, Geneva), our modules are also certified as a building product. With the extended abZ, building owners and architects now get even more security and creative freedom for BIPV projects. This makes it even easier to bring energy generation to the place where it is also consumed – CO₂-neutral and future-proof."

About AVANCIS GmbH

AVANCIS GmbH develops and produces premium class solar modules based on the copper indium gallium disulfoselenide compound (CIGS modules) – high quality products "Made in Germany". The innovative technology is developed in the company's own research and development centers in Munich and Torgau and manufactured in the production facility in Torgau. AVANCIS technology dates back to pioneering work in the 1980s at Arco Solar and has evolved through many intermediate stages into today's thin-film technology. The main brand is the SKALA product portfolio as an energy-generating facade material for buildings and infrastructure facilities as well as for use in ground-mounted and rooftop systems. AVANCIS has been part of the CNBM Group since 2014.

Fig. 1 - Sara-Kulturhus, Skelleftea, Sweden, approx. 300 bronze-colored SKALA modules at a height of 80 m. The SKALA modules for BIPV are now also approved for several hundred meters building height due to the extended abZ.



Fig. 2 - Bremer Tor in Vechta, Germany, approx. 230 anthracite-colored SKALA modules integrated into the facade during renovation. SKALA combines first-class design and highest quality with the requirements of building code - for even more creative freedom in the realization of energy-generating facades.



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