THE SUBPROGRAM "BUILDING OF TOMORROW" OF THE AUSTRIAN FEDERAL MINISTRY FOR TRANSPORT, INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY (BMVIT)

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Abstract

The subprogram "Building of tomorrow" is part of the Austrian Program on Technologies for Sustainable Development, a research and technology program which has been developed by the Austrian Federal Ministry of Transport, Innovation and Technology (BMVIT). The program initiates and supports trend-setting research and development projects and the implementation of exemplary pilot projects.
The subprogram "Building of Tomorrow" supports with well prepared tenders innovative RTD-projects. It makes use of the two most important developments in solar and energy efficient buildings: the passive house and the low energy solar building concept. For the purposes of the "Building of Tomorrow" subprogram, these energy centred innovations were expanded and take in ecological, economical and social concerns.
The "Buildings of Tomorrow" are residential and office buildings, and differ from current building practice in Austria by fulfilling the following criteria:

- improved energy efficiency throughout the whole life-cycle of the building;
- increased use of renewable energy sources, especially solar energy;
- increased use of sustainable raw materials and efficient use of materials;
- increased consideration of user needs and services;
- however, the costs are comparable with conventional building methods.

To combine the above mentioned demands is a very challenging task. The key factor to realise these goals lies in innovation - not only technological but social, technological and institutional innovation as well. It is precisely the combination of all those criteria which offers the chance to make technological leaps with high market potential.
The ultimate goal of the program is to demonstrate the feasibility of "sustainable buildings with high market potential and considerably increased comfort at comparable costs". Related to this goal it is aspired by the program to strengthen the development and market diffusion of innovative technologies, systems and components, prefabricated building parts and building methods which correspond to the criteria above and to the main principles of sustainable development.
More than 150 projects representing a total subsidy of roughly 20 Mio. EUROS have been contracted until October 2005. 2/3 of those already have been completed.

For further information on the subprogram in German language and for project descriptions in English language please visit www.HAUSderZukunft.at