Press Release, 10th of June 2026

Solar Power Instead of Power Cuts: Austrian Technology Delivers Hot Water for 50 Street Children in Nairobi

For years, hot water in the boarding facility of the Mukuru Promotion Centre in Nairobi, Kenya, was a rare luxury. That changed with the installation of the SOL•THOR by my-PV. The DC power manager for photovoltaic-based heating converts solar electricity directly into hot water—independently of Kenya's unstable power grid.

The device was donated by my-PV to the Sisters of Mercy, the organization operating the boarding school. The solution has significantly improved daily life for around 50 boys who previously had to take cold showers. Today, they can reliably access hot water.

From June 23 to 25, 2026, my-PV will present its solutions at Intersolar Europe in Munich, at booth B3.130, in cooperation with KOSTAL.

Grid-Connected System Proved Unreliable

The original plan called for a grid-tied photovoltaic system designed to maintain a 1,000-liter hot water boiler at 60°C while also supplying electricity for the boarding school for street children. However, the highly volatile power grid in East Africa rendered this approach unreliable. Hot water production only worked when grid power was available. In addition, the system at times drew electricity from the grid or fed energy back incorrectly, further complicating operation.

Reinhard Krall, technical director of the Mukuru Promotion Centre and a former Austrian development worker, began searching for an alternative. The solution came from Austria.

"A former employee of the Austrian non-profit service provider BBM recommended that I contact my-PV," Krall explained. "The off-grid solution provides exactly the reliability we need, despite the frequent power outages in Kenya."

Off-Grid Solution from Austria

The SOL•THOR uses direct current generated by photovoltaic modules to operate a conventional AC heating element in a hot water boiler—completely independent of the public electricity grid.

Nine PV modules with a total capacity of 4.05 kWp installed on the roof of the boarding facility supply the system. The device is mounted directly next to the hot water storage tank. The system provides hot water for two bathrooms with a total of eight showers, ensuring that up to 50 children have access to warm water at any time.

Improved Quality of Life

Located near the equator, Kenya benefits from nearly twice as many hours of sunshine as Austria. The SOL•THOR makes this abundant energy directly usable.

“For our children, hot water is a gift that cannot be measured in monetary terms,” said Krall. “The sun is reliable—and the SOL•THOR manages it perfectly.”

my-PV at Intersolar Europe in Munich

From June 23–25, 2026, my-PV will present the SOL•THOR and additional products at Intersolar Europe in Munich (booth B3.130, together with KOSTAL). The photovoltaic heating specialist will also offer individual press meetings for journalists at the trade fair, which can be scheduled in advance.

Characters: 2.972 | Words: 470

About my-PV
Located in Neuzeug, Austria, the manufacturer my-PV GmbH was founded in 2011. Since then, it has developed into a major manufacturer for photovoltaic water heating systems. Since 2018, my-PV has also been thinking solar-electrically in the heating and space heating sector. In August 2021, the company relocated to its unique solar-electric headquarters at Betriebsstraße 12, 4523 Neuzeug, Upper Austria. At this site, my-PV develops and manufactures devices that connect photovoltaic systems with thermal applications. The company currently employs 75 people.

Images:

The boarding facility for 50 street children in Nairobi is operated by the Sisters of Mercy.

© my-PV GmbH

In operation: The SOL•THOR DC power manager provides off-grid hot water supply.

© my-PV GmbH

Reinhard Krall, responsible for technical supervision, training, construction oversight, and maintenance at the Sisters of Mercy, together with David Safari (project photographer on site).

© my-PV GmbH

Press Contact:

my-PV GmbH
Tobias Fuchslechner
T: +43 660 678 8626
tobias.fuchslechner@my-pv.com

For further enquiries:
Krampitz Communications GmbH
T: +49 (0)221 912 49949
contact@pr-krampitz.de