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## Press Release

31 October 2013

### Passive House Days provide insights with a holiday feeling

#### Explorer Hotels in the Alpine Region open to the public from 8 - 10 November

*Darmstadt.* The doors of hundreds of Passive House buildings will be opened to the public during the second weekend in November. Three Hotels belonging to the Explorer group located in the Alps will be among the buildings participating in the Passive House Days event, offering a first-hand Passive House experience with a holiday feeling. In the German Allgäu and Austrian Vorarlberg regions, visitors will be able to see for themselves that the Passive House level of comfort fulfils even highest demands of holidaymakers. An overview of all participating buildings which can be viewed from 8 - 10 November can be found on the Passive House Database at [www.passivehouse-database.org](http://www.passivehouse-database.org).



The new Explorer Hotel Neuschwanstein in Nesselwang.  
Picture: Explorer

The world's first Certified Passive House hotel opened in 2010 in Fischen near Oberstdorf in the German Allgäu region. The hotel operator has set new standards in an otherwise extremely energy-intensive sector. By now, two more Explorer Hotels have been realised to the Passive House Standard: one in Gaschurn in the Montafon valley in Austria, and the other in Nesselwang in the Bavarian Ostallgäu district. The decision in favour of highly insulated building envelopes, low-e triple-glazing

and heat recovery ventilation systems was primarily made for economic reasons: According to the company's calculations, the additional costs will be offset within just six years in all three cases.

"These hotel buildings are proof that far from being costly or complicated, the Passive House Standard represents a cost-effective solution which can be applied on a broad scale," says Prof Wolfgang Feist, Director of the Passive House Institute in Darmstadt, Germany. For all those who have not yet had the chance to experience the benefits this

construction method offers, the Passive House Days event provides an ideal opportunity to do so, not only in the Alpine Region, Austria and Germany, but also in many other countries across the globe.

The Explorer Hotel near Oberstdorf, which has been in operation for two years, uses 70% less energy and 85% less energy for heating than comparable hotels. The remaining energy demand is covered by solar heating and photovoltaic systems as well as an environmentally friendly biogas and wood pellet heating system. "The quantities of biogas and pellets available in Germany would be sufficient for all buildings if everyone followed this example," says Feist. Special windows capture the heat from the sun, and even the waste heat from occupants and household appliances contributes towards the energy balance. As a result, these hotels are 100% climate-neutral.

The Passive House Days event is organised internationally by iPHA, the International Passive House Association, along with its partners worldwide. The three Explorer Hotels will be open from 8 - 10 November between 11am and 5pm. Guided tours will be offered at 11am and 2pm. The rooms, conference rooms and the sport and wellness areas can be visited any time. In addition to the three design budget hotels belonging to the Explorer group, the Boutiquehotel Stadthalle in Vienna (guided tour on 8 November at 11am) and the Ecohotel Bonapace near Gardasee (10 November from 9am - 4pm) will also be participating in the Passive House Days event.

**Press contact:**

Benjamin Wunsch | Passive House Institute /iPHA | +49 (0)6151-82699-25 | [presse@passiv.de](mailto:presse@passiv.de)  
Jana Rettke | Explorer Hotels Oberstdorf, Montafon and Neuschwanstein | 08322-97850 | [pr@explorer-hotels.com](mailto:pr@explorer-hotels.com)

