

## There's still money in the package for roof renovation

### Application deadline for subsidies under the second stimulus package will expire soon

More than a year ago, the German Federal Government decided the second stimulus package. A total of ten billion euros have been made available to federal states and municipalities in order to renovate educational institutions and to optimise their infrastructures. Public organisms were thereby accorded a wider scope of action: They may freely decide as to the distribution and purpose of the subsidies. All building projects which are started up until the end of 2010 can benefit from federal funding, and not all of the available money has yet been drawn upon. Two schools in Lower Franconia show how these funds can be optimally put to use.

The Dr. Karl Grünewald secondary modern school in Bad Königshofen has already been entirely renovated, starting in 2009. "We have invested a total of 1.8 million euros in renovation. We would never have been able to take this on without the second stimulus package", says Winfried Götz from the council district office of Rhön-Grabfeld.

A problem confronting the secondary modern school faced was the worn-out roof, with a total area of 1300 square meters. "While the school roof war hadn't developed leaks; it was nonetheless in a miserable condition", according to Norbert Weber, consultant at the Vedag GmbH. "Furthermore, the insulation, which was too thin, no longer met the new German regulations concerning energy savings (EnEV). "These require a 30-percent improvement in insulation and thus optimised insulating materials for the renovation of old buildings. "We have already worked together with the firm Vedag in the past, and were always quite satisfied", says Winfried Götz.



"The sales representative responsible for us assisted in the planning and construction tendering. Furthermore, we were able to save 2000 euros on the basis of the free roof analysis – money that we can use for other projects in turn."

The school's flat roof was first opened up and thoroughly analysed with the aid of thermal calculations and a gradient setting determined. The work was only actually begun after this. The gravel loads were removed, the roof was cleaned and a so-called EPS pitched roof laid down over the old waterproofing. "We included the pre-existing thermal insulation of the building in the thermal calculations. As a result, the thickness of the insulating material could be reduced", reports Weber.

Afterwards, a high-quality double-layered sealing system, consisting of the self-adhesive SBS-modified underlay VEDATOP SU and the exceptionally high quality polymerbitumen waterproof sheeting VEDATOP DUO was laid down and the gravel returned to its place. Taken together, this additional insulation met the stricter requirements of the new EnEV. At the same time, the cost of tearing down and disposing of the old roof was thereby avoided.

Meanwhile, the pupils of the lower secondary school in Mellrichstadt are likewise benefiting from state funds. The responsible body here is the school association, which formed by Mellrichstadt as well as three other municipalities a few years ago. "The project was financed by up to ninety percent out of the second stimulus package", according to Peter Hehn, treasurer of the administrative association of Mellrichstadt. Here as well, the roof was renovated. "Our free roof analysis determined that the roof is still in relatively good condition", reported Vedag system consultant Weber, who also assisted this project. "We thus only adapted the insulation to the stricter standards of EnEV 2009 and laid down two new waterproofing layers." School activities continued normally during this operation.

Pupils in both schools can now learn under renovated, energy-saving roofs for decades to come. Without the second stimulus package this would have been impossible in this form – and the pot is not yet empty. The preliminary conclusion by Bavarian Home Secretary Joachim Herrmann at a press conference in April of this year, was that the Free State of Bavaria was well on schedule in the implementation of the second stimu-

lus package. "For municipal investments, subsidies amounting (...) to more than one billion have already been approved", according to Herrmann. More than 2000 administrative decisions for grants have already been issued; the lion's share of these involves energy-related building renovation for educational institutions. Herrmann continued: "The approval procedures for projects involving municipalities are well under way and through efficient project management by the other governmental authorities involved, a large number of approval procedures have been successfully managed." It has thus been ensured that the money will also flow into local economies on time and, what is even more decisive, that the commissioned firms have planning security. Yet the deadline for applying for funds from the second stimulus package will expire at the end of this year.

Nonetheless, subsidies for investment projects can still be made use of in 2011, if these are begun before 31 December 2010 and a separate construction phase is concluded in 2011. Municipalities must therefore act quickly, if they as well as their citizens intend to benefit from the funds made available.

## **BACKGROUND**

The stimulus package "Decision against Crisis, Strength for the Next Upswing – Pact for Employment and Stability in Germany to Safeguard Jobs, Strengthen Growth Drivers and Modernize the Country", also known as the Second stimulus package for short, is an extension of the earlier stimulus package of November 2008. It provides for various stimulus policy measures, in order to cushion the impact of the recession, triggered in part to the international financial crisis in 2009. The Act for Investment in the Future by municipalities and federal states (Zukunftsinvestitionsgesetz – ZuInvG) which contains provisions concerning financial aid by the federal government under Article 104b of the Constitution for additional investment by municipalities and federal states amounting to 10 billion euros plays, an essential role in this package.



Incorporation of details into the double-layer waterproofing is enabled without problems. Source: Vedag GmbH



The polymer bitumen sheeting **VEDATOP DUO** reliably protects the roof against weather-related damage and ensures an attractive visual effect due to the dolomite grey sprinkling. Source: Vedag GmbH



The roof of the secondary modern school after energy-related renovation. Source: Vedag GmbH



Vedag consultant  
Norbert Weber