

Expert profile

Munich, October 2026

Matthias Schmuderer

Founder, Shareholder and Managing Director, responsible for teaching materials, schools and operations

From aerospace engineering via the energy industry to education: Matthias Schmuderer has developed aircraft pumps, planned energy systems and run a consultancy of 50 people. With Solarbildung he now pursues the idea that drives him most: children and young people should not just understand renewable energy, they should grasp it with their own hands.



From aircraft to the energy transition

After studying mechanical engineering at the Technical University of Munich, Matthias Schmuderer spent five years in the international aerospace industry. Leading a project with partners from four countries, he and his team developed the first aircraft fuel pump with a plastic housing. His interest in the environment and energy was already there: his degree thesis was on a Vuilleumier heat pump. The next step took him, logically enough, to the engineering firm Umwelt-Energie-Technik, where he designed systems that made the use of energy more efficient and, after five years, took over the energy division. Alongside his job he added a degree in sales and marketing management to his technical background.

Ten years as an entrepreneur in the energy industry

As partner and managing director he grew a consultancy for the energy industry from a small project into a company of up to 50 people and ran it for ten years. In parallel he developed renewable energy projects, from photovoltaics and wind to biomass, and still brings his experience to shareholdings in energy and sustainability. Taxi driver as a student, aerospace engineer, consultant, investor, managing director: this path has shaped an all-rounder who keeps technology, economics and people in view at the same time.

Why Solarbildung

Through one of his shareholdings, the British company Solar Options for Schools Ltd., he came across the idea of bringing solar energy to the next generation. To give the topic a platform of its own, he founded the non-profit company in Munich in 2021, took it out of the group in 2023 together with Mike Marqués Teschendorff and Michael Fehn, and since 2026 it has carried the name Solarbildung gGmbH. His conviction is simple: "Education has to come from the schools themselves." That is why Solarbildung develops teaching materials that let teachers teach without outside speakers, and relies less on formulas than on experiences. "For us it is about the emotion," he says.

As managing director, Matthias Schmuderer is responsible for the operational side: the development of the teaching materials, the collaboration with the Caritas Brucker Werkstatt

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where they are made, the contact with schools and teachers, and the support of the working students and volunteers who carry the team. That this approach works is shown by the St. Immaculata secondary school in Schlehdorf, where pupils planned and financed their own photovoltaic system after a single Solarbildung lesson. “Lessons can inspire initiative and really make something happen,” he says. In 2025, Solarbildung received the National Award for Education for Sustainable Development from the German Commission for UNESCO and the Federal Ministry of Education.

Business built on values

For him, values are not an add-on but the basis of the work. Solarbildung has drawn up and certified a Common Good Balance Sheet under the Economy for the Common Good; he accepted the certificate in Nuremberg in early 2026. With courage, hope and joy, the next generation should be given the toolbox for a life in times of climate crisis. For Matthias Schmuderer one thing is clear: now is the time to act, and to act with confidence.

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