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Tennessee Solar Institute announces \$7.25 Million in Solar Innovation Grants; additional Innovation Grant request process to begin this week

Grant opportunities available for businesses working in or seeking work in the solar industry

KNOXVILLE – As part of Governor Phil Bredesen’s Volunteer State Solar Initiative, the Tennessee Solar Institute (TSI) today announced a commitment of over seven million dollars in Solar Innovation Grants to fund 37 projects throughout the state to spur growth in the state’s emerging solar value chain. A total of 21 Tennessee businesses, representing eight of the nine U.S. congressional districts in the state, were awarded grants.

“The grants awarded to businesses across the state represent a wide range of proposed activities, from process improvements to workforce development,” said David Millhorn, executive vice president, University of Tennessee. “But the one thing they have in common is that they will help these solar firms be more productive, less energy intensive and more efficient in their processes. Today’s announcement is another important step in the establishment of Tennessee as a leader in solar.”

All told, the grant funding will leverage more than \$13 million in private investments, with a total cumulative benefit to the state’s economy in excess of \$20 million. Companies receiving grant awards represent a cross-section of large and small businesses in Tennessee’s growing solar industry. Grant funds will be used to increase energy efficiency and incorporate renewable energy products in the workplace, while decreasing operating costs and increasing profitability. The end result will be the creation of new Tennessee jobs and increased competitiveness across the solar value chain.

“Through the vision of Governor Phil Bredesen, we have worked hard to position Tennessee as a leader in the renewable energy sector,” said Matt Kisber, commissioner, Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development. “Programs such as the Tennessee Solar Institute’s Innovation Grants will further cement our leadership position, and encourage the growth of Tennessee’s burgeoning solar industry.”

The TSI also announced today that it will begin accepting grant applications for its next round of Solar Innovation Grants this week. An additional \$7.25 million of grant funding is available to solar industry firms under the second round of Innovation Grants. TSI will accept proposals for a Solar Innovation Grant in one or more of the following six categories:

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TSI – page 2

Technical Assistance – Applicants will obtain the resources and assistance needed to implement applicant-specific sustainable clean energy programs that support job creation and energy reductions in their place of operation.

Workforce Development – Applicants will participate in workforce development projects that include applicant-specific education and training programs related to the manufacture, sale, installation and maintenance of solar systems and equipment.

Renewable Energy Products – Applicants will incorporate renewable energy products in their place of operation with the intent of reducing greenhouse gases and energy consumption. These improvements also demonstrate commercially-available renewable energy technologies to potential customers.

Process Improvements – Applicants will integrate manufacturing process improvements that increase overall efficiency and productivity.

Technology Improvements – Applicants will incorporate changes in manufacturing operations by adding new technologies and methods that speed the deployment of products and create opportunities for entry into new markets.

Facilities and Equipment Improvements – Applicants will reduce energy consumption through traditional energy efficiency retrofits by upgrading facilities and installing energy-efficient equipment.

Detailed information and application materials for the Solar Innovation Grant Program are available on the TSI website, <http://solar.tennessee.edu>. Applications for the Solar Innovation Grant Program must be received by the Tennessee Solar Institute no later than January 20, 2011.

The Tennessee Solar Institute is part of the Volunteer State Solar Initiative, a comprehensive solar energy and economic development program that was established using \$62.5 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 funding received by the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development.

About Tennessee Solar Institute

The Tennessee Solar Institute (TSI) is a center of excellence between the University of Tennessee and Oak Ridge National Laboratory that brings together scientists, engineers and technical experts with business leaders and policymakers to help speed the deployment of solar technology. Its mission is to advance the understanding of solar innovation and to inspire new ideas that speed the development and implementation of solar-based technology in Tennessee. TSI is housed at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville. For more information, visit <http://solar.tennessee.edu>.

(NOTE TO MEDIA: See Solar Innovation Grantee list – attached)

Solar Innovation Grant Awards - December 8, 2010

| Topic Area | Company | County | Congressional District | Award | Objectives |
|----------------------------------|---|----------|------------------------|------------|---|
| Technical Assistance | LightWave Solar Electric LLC | Davidson | 5 | \$ 27,000 | Lightwave Solar designs and installs turn-key solar PV systems throughout Tennessee. With this award, Lightwave will contract with a business consultant to analyze business operations, conduct market research, and increase business efficiency and effectiveness. |
| 8 projects | Outpost Solar, LLC | Giles | 4 | \$ 100,000 | Outpost Solar designs and manufactures innovative energy solutions from off-grid solar systems for remote areas to grid-tied parking area solar arrays. With this award, Outpost Solar will conduct (i) an energy assessment and implementation plan for its facility and (ii) engage technical expertise in the fields of material processing to enhance efficiencies in its manufacturing operations. |
| | Sustainable Future, LLC | Knox | 2 | \$ 72,310 | Sustainable Future is a provider of solar installation services. With this award, Sustainable Future will contract with technical consultants to increase business process efficiency and to improve electrical design and installation proficiency. |
| | Solar and Renewable Power Systems | Madison | 8 | \$ 55,771 | Solar & Renewable Power Systems promotes, sells, designs, and installs solar PV systems in the State of Tennessee. With this award, SRPS will add equipment and software to aid in the implementation of renewable energy products. This will create more efficiency and productivity in business operations. |
| | AGC Glass Company North America, Inc. | Sullivan | 1 | \$ 100,000 | AGC Glass Co. is a global leader in solar photovoltaic module glass production. With this award, AGC will contract with a specialty firm to conduct a comprehensive energy audit of its facility and develop recommendations based on the results. Implementation will reduce AGC's long-term operational costs while saving energy. |
| | MidSouth Sustainable Energy Solutions, Inc. | Shelby | 9 | \$ 55,760 | MSES is a new entrant in Tennessee's solar value chain. MSES was formed to drive the growth of industrial solar installations in urban centers by offering a comprehensive package of services. With this award, MSES will contract with a renewable energy and a marketing/commercialization consultant to develop in-house expertise in these areas. |
| | Soltility Inc. | Blount | 2 | \$ 90,000 | Soltility provides design, financing, installation, monitoring, and maintenance of solar installations. With this award, Soltility will develop a strategic marketing plan that addresses the market segments and create a tactical plan. |
| | Sharp Manufacturing Company of America | Shelby | 9 | \$ 100,000 | Sharp Manufacturing Company of America is a major manufacturer of solar panels. With this award, Sharp will conduct a market analysis and conduct an energy audit of its entire campus in Memphis |
| Workforce Development | Green Earth Solar, LLC | Knox | 2 | \$ 30,500 | Green Earth Solar consults, designs, sells and installs solar energy systems including PV and thermal technologies. With this award, Green Earth will further train its employees in the design, sale, and installation of solar systems. |
| 4 Projects | AGC Glass Company North America, Inc. | Sullivan | 1 | \$ 50,000 | AGC Glass Co. is a global leader in solar photovoltaic module glass production. With this award, AGC will continue to develop its highly skilled workforce in the operation of advanced technical machinery. |
| | Shoals Technologies Group, LLC | Sumner | 6 | \$ 50,000 | Shoals Technologies Group, LLC, is a leading manufacturer of components for the solar industry. With this award, Shoals will train a new set of employees for the manufacture of a new product. |
| | Appalachian Renewable Resources, LLC | Knox | 2 | \$ 4,355 | Appalachian Renewable Resources is a new entrant in Tennessee's solar value chain specializing in the design and installation of solar photovoltaic systems. With this award, the managing member will augment his education and licensing in solar system design and installation. |
| Renewable Energy Products | AGC Glass Company North America, Inc. | Sullivan | 1 | \$ 250,000 | AGC Glass Co. is a global leader in solar photovoltaic module glass production. With this award, AGC will contract with a solar installation firm to install a 50 kW photovoltaic array on its facility. |
| 10 Projects | Sustainable Future, LLC | Knox | 2 | \$ 250,000 | Sustainable Future is a provider of solar installation services. With this award, Sustainable Future will develop an area at its facility to demonstrate various solar array mounting techniques with a combined capacity of 23.25 kW. |
| | HM Company | Madison | 8 | \$ 237,661 | H&M Company is a national engineering and construction firm offering a range of design-build services, including PV systems, for projects through North America. With this award, H&M will install a 40.48 kW PV array on company headquarters. |
| | Solar and Renewable Power Systems, LLC | Madison | 8 | \$ 249,245 | Solar & Renewable Power Systems promotes, sells, designs, and installs solar PV systems in the State of Tennessee. With this award, SRPS will install a 40.68 kW PV array on its company headquarters. |
| | Integrated Solar | Davidson | 5 | \$ 210,000 | Integrated Solar provides clients with complete renewable energy integration with new and existing power systems. With this award, Integrated solar will install and demonstrate a 40 kW solar array with an electric vehicle recharging station. |
| | Signal Energy, LLC | Hamilton | 3 | \$ 177,870 | Signal Energy, LLC is a full service design/build contractor providing Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) services for renewable energy projects. With this award, Signal Energy proposes to reduce the GHG emissions of its corporate office and generate renewable electricity by designing and installing a 29 KW Solar PV roof top system using an innovative racking material. |
| | Big Frog Mountain Corporation | Hamilton | 3 | \$ 97,870 | Big Frog Mountain is a provider of custom design and integration services, and regional distributor and sales of renewable energy systems and components. With this award, Big Frog Mountain will install a 9kW solar array with battery backup as a demonstration and training system at its facility. |
| | Outpost Solar, LLC | Giles | 4 | \$ 250,000 | Outpost Solar designs and manufactures innovative energy solutions from off-grid solar systems for remote areas to grid-tied parking area solar arrays. With this award, Outpost Solar will install a 56.4 kW Parking Area Solar Array at its facility. |
| | Choice Mechanical, Incorporated | Madison | 8 | \$ 246,457 | Choice Mechanical is an installer of geothermal, solar, and wind systems. With this award, Choice Mechanical will install a 24 kW PV system + 3.5 ton Geothermal system to offset its electrical and heating costs. |
| | Lawson Electric Company, Inc. | Hamilton | 3 | \$ 229,535 | Lawson electric is a full-service electrical contracting company and a new entrant in Tennessee's solar value chain. With this award, Lawson Electric will install a 40.48 kW solar array on company headquarters in Chattanooga. |

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| Process Improvements | Outpost Solar, LLC | Giles | 4 | \$ 500,000 | Outpost Solar designs and manufactures innovative energy solutions from off-grid solar systems for remote areas to grid-tied parking area solar arrays. With this award, Outpost Solar will purchase new equipment for tube bending specific to its manufacture of solar parking array structures. |
| 6 Projects | EET Corporation | Roane | 3 | \$ 500,000 | EET Corporation is a manufacturer of heat transfer fluids for solar thermal and other applications. With this award, EET will retool its process line for recovering and purifying glycerol from waste streams for reuse as a component in solar thermal heat transfer fluids. |
| | Richland, LLC | Giles | 4 | \$ 457,540 | Richland, LLC is the fabricator, manufacturer of steel support structures for use in solar parking arrays. With this award, Richland will improve its fabrication processes and component flow through the facility with the objective of labor and energy efficiency. |
| | CARA-SOL ENERGY, LLC | Knox | 2 | \$ 189,500 | Cara-Sol Energy, LLC is a provider of solar goods and services including solar feasibility studies, design, and installation of solar thermal and photovoltaic systems. With this award, Cara-Sol will tool a manufacturing line for the production of solar thermal panels. |
| | Sharp Manufacturing Company of America | Shelby | 9 | \$ 500,000 | Sharp Manufacturing Company of America is a major manufacturer of solar panels. With this award, Sharp will retool and expand its manufacturing line with the purchase of tabbing machines and associated ancillary equipment. |
| | AGC Glass Company North America, Inc. | Sullivan | 1 | \$ 500,000 | AGC Glass Co. is a global leader in solar photovoltaic module glass production. With this award, AGC's Kingsport operation will use these funds to upgrade operational capability and reduce the energy consumption of their anti-reflective coating process. |
| Technology Improvements | Sharp Manufacturing Company of America | Shelby | 9 | \$ 100,000 | Sharp Manufacturing Company of America is a major manufacturer of solar panels. With this award, Sharp will install new technology to improve the efficiency of production for their solar module process. |
| 3 Projects | AGC Glass Company North America, Inc. | Sullivan | 1 | \$ 100,000 | AGC Glass Co. is a global leader in solar photovoltaic module glass production. AGC's Kingsport operation will use the Process Improvement grant to purchase infrared scanning devices which will increase the quality of solar glass products. |
| | Outpost Solar, LLC | Giles | 4 | \$ 100,000 | Outpost Solar designs and manufactures innovative energy solutions from off-grid solar systems for remote areas to grid-tied parking area solar arrays. With this award, Outpost Solar will purchase a programmable/computerized CNC vertical bandsaw system to replace the current process of manually performing the tasks with multiple machines and workstations improving productivity and output. |
| Facilities & Equipment Improvements | AGC Glass Company North America, Inc. | Sullivan | 1 | \$ 500,000 | AGC Glass Co. is a global leader in solar photovoltaic module glass production. With this award, AGC will install energy efficient lighting as part of a comprehensive energy efficiency modernization plan in its facility. |
| 6 Projects | Integrated Solar | Davidson | 5 | \$ 39,500 | Integrated Solar provides clients with complete renewable energy integration with new and existing power systems. With this award, Integrated Solar will improve the energy efficiency of its facility by upgrading its HVAC system, windows, doors, and insulation. |
| | Big Frog Mountain Corporation | Hamilton | 3 | \$ 26,700 | Big Frog Mountain is a provider of custom design and integration services, and regional distributor and sales of renewable energy systems and components. With this award, Big Frog Mountain will insulate its facility and add energy saving film to its windows in order to reduce its heating and cooling costs. |
| | MidSouth Sustainable Energy Solutions | Shelby | 9 | \$ 162,535 | MSES is a new entrant in Tennessee's solar value chain. MSES was formed to drive the growth of industrial solar installations in urban centers by offering a comprehensive package of services. With this award, MSES will install high efficiency lighting and elevator motors in its parking garage. |
| | Sharp Manufacturing Company of America | Shelby | 9 | \$ 500,000 | Sharp Manufacturing Company of America is a major manufacturer of solar panels. With this award, Sharp will install LED and T-5 lights throughout its facilities in Memphis. |
| | Solar & Renewable Power Systems | Madison | 8 | \$ 169,608 | Solar & Renewable Power Systems promotes, sells, designs, and installs solar PV systems in the State of Tennessee. With this award, SRPS will install high efficiency HVAC units as well as occupancy sensors and solar window film. |
| | Totals | | | \$ 7,279,717 | |
| | Total Number of Projects to be Funded | | | \$ 37 | |