



Press Release

Office of Economic Development

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SAN JOSE TO WELCOME UNDERWRITERS LABORATORIES' SOLAR TESTING FACILITY

Largest site of its kind in North America to provide photovoltaic module testing and certification

SAN JOSE, CALIF. — (May 22, 2008) — The City of San Jose announced today that Underwriters Laboratories (UL), a world leader in product safety testing and certification, will open a state-of-the-art photovoltaic (PV) testing and certification facility located at 2191 Zanker Road in north San Jose.

The multi-million dollar project, called Underwriters Laboratories Photovoltaic Technology Center of Excellence, is a 20,000 square-foot facility intended to increase testing capacity for the renewable energy industry and get UL-Listed photovoltaic (PV) products to market faster.

The testing and certification site is targeted to open in July and will initially employ 25 technicians and staff over the next five years, and offer a full portfolio of pre-certification services, including R&D and training.

“We welcome this world-class solar testing facility to San Jose. It will help *San Jose’s Green Vision* become reality. By creating jobs and facilitating innovation, this facility will help San Jose build momentum as a global leader in the clean tech sector,” said San Jose Mayor Chuck Reed. “The UL site will complement existing San Jose research and manufacturing facilities, and help bring solar technologies that address widespread energy challenges to market more quickly,” Reed said.

UL decided to develop its testing facility in San Jose, the largest of its kind in North America to date, to partner with the growing community of solar start-ups and existing companies who are bringing new technology, including thin-film PV, concentrated solar power and other cell technologies into mainstream production.

Bill Colavecchio, vice president, Global Industrial Product Sector, Underwriters Laboratories, said, “UL’s decision to establish our Photovoltaic Technology Center of Excellence in the City of San Jose was based largely upon a foundation consisting of strong support from the city government and the many surrounding businesses dedicated to researching and developing progressive renewable energy technologies. Our decision also complements Governor Schwarzenegger’s renewable energy direction for the State of California. We are truly excited about the San Jose location and look forward to future expansion with the program.”

In addition to collaborating with the City of San Jose, UL is working with SolarTech, an initiative of the Silicon Valley Leadership Group, to help reach as many solar product manufacturers as possible.

Carl Guardino, president and CEO, Silicon Valley Leadership Group said, “Silicon Valley is rapidly emerging as America’s ‘Solar Valley.’ UL’s Photovoltaic Technology Center of Excellence will not only help catalyze the growth of this vital industry sector, but most importantly it will support innovative Silicon Valley companies that are leading the world by developing the technologies necessary to fight global climate change.”

SolarTech provides the opportunity for introduction of a safety-related discipline during the early stages of product development in the PV supply-chain and an end-to-end solution for PV companies.

“This is a win-win for San Jose and the entire region. We feel this new facility will exponentially attract new enterprises to the area and demonstrates how San Jose is using its entrepreneurial spirit to build an industry sector that will focus on harnessing the power of a clean, renewable energy source” said Tom McCalmont, chair of SolarTech and CEO of REgrid Power.

The global growth rate for PV products has increased to 30 percent annually, according to Worldwatch. The requirement for PV modules to be listed to UL standards in U.S. and Canadian markets, as well as, to International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) standards has increased demand for product testing and certification services.

About Underwriters Laboratories

Underwriters Laboratories is an independent product safety certification organization that has been testing products and writing Standards for Safety for over a century. UL evaluates more than 19,000 types of products, components, materials and systems annually with 21 billion UL Marks appearing on 71,000 manufacturers' products each year. UL's worldwide family of companies and network of service providers includes 62 laboratory, testing and certification facilities serving customers in 99 countries. UL is also the only National Certification Body (NCB) for PV in North America and an OSHA accredited Nationally Recognized Testing Laboratory (NRTL). Visit: www.UL.com/newsroom.

About SolarTech

SolarTech is a collaborative effort to create a Solar Center of Excellence in Silicon Valley. The purpose is to identify, prioritize, and resolve technical and adoption barriers to solar technology by addressing issues of performance, processes, standards, and workforce readiness. For more information on SolarTech, visit solartech.org or svlg.net.

About the Silicon Valley Leadership Group

The Silicon Valley Leadership Group, founded in 1978 by David Packard of Hewlett-Packard, represents 260 member companies on issues, programs and campaigns that affect the economic

health and quality of life in Silicon Valley, including energy, transportation, education, housing, health care, tax policies, economic vitality and the environment. Leadership Group members collectively provide more than 250,000 local jobs, or one of every four private sector jobs in Silicon Valley. For more information, visit www.svlg.net or call (408) 501-7864.

About San Jose's Green Vision

San Jose's Green Vision is a comprehensive strategy that addresses how environmental responsibility makes financial sense and stimulates economic opportunity. With the Green Vision, San Jose will lead the nation in becoming more energy efficient, producing and using electricity from clean renewable sources, creating green buildings, diverting waste from landfills, creating greener street systems, delivering recycled water, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. This vision includes 10 bold goals that will serve as a roadmap to reduce the carbon footprint of the tenth largest city in the nation by more than half. For more information, please visit,

<http://www.sanjoseca.gov/pdf/sanjosegreenvision.pdf>

About the City of San Jose

From its founding in 1777 as California's first city, San Jose has been a leader, driven by its spirit of innovation. Today, San Jose stands as the largest city in Northern California and the Capital of Silicon Valley—the world's leading center of innovation. The city, the 10th largest in the U.S., is committed to remaining a top-ranked place to do business, work, live, play and learn. For more information, visit, www.sanjoseca.gov.

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