

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

Wolfen/Thalheim, Germany  
15. March 2006 2.00pm



### **CSG Solar Inaugurates its Manufacturing Facility Innovative Australian solar technology to be produced in Germany**

Today CSG Solar AG inaugurates its 9000 m<sup>2</sup> manufacturing facility in Thalheim near Wolfen/Landkreis Bitterfeld, Sachsen-Anhalt.

The Federal Minister for Environment Sigmar Gabriel and Prime Minister of Saxony-Anhalt Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Böhmer will take part in this event.

Initial CSG-1 production will be ramped-up towards an annual capacity of 10 MW by mid year. By end 2006, after the commissioning of the second, CSG-2 stage, production capacity at Thalheim is expected to approach full annual capacity of 20 - 25 MW operating 365 days per year.

Total investment in CSG-1 and CSG-2 of €53 million are supported by the state of Saxony-Anhalt, the Bundesrepublik Deutschland and by the European Fund for Regional Development (EFRE).

#### **Worldwide unique technology**

The CSG Solar team's goal at the beginning in 1995 was to take a huge leap forward by developing a manufacturable solar cell production technology with significantly reduced energy and materials consumption, whilst retaining the strengths inherent in crystalline silicon, which has proven to withstand decades of exposure to bright sunlight in harsh environments. The achievement of this goal was made possible through the commitment and dedication of a team including some of the world's leading experts in this field.

In the CSG production process, silicon is not required in the form of silicon wafers. Instead, a very thin layer of silicon, less than two microns thick, is deposited directly onto the textured surface of a glass sheet that assists in trapping light within the deposited silicon. The deposited silicon is crystallised by heating. The resulting layer is processed using patented laser and ink-jet printing techniques to form the electrical contacts needed to extract the solar-produced electricity from the silicon.

The CSG technology makes it possible to produce solar modules using significantly less silicon than wafer based alternatives because the thickness of the CSG deposited silicon layer is less than 2 micrometers compared with 250 micrometers silicon wafers used in solar cell production.

#### **High quality standard**

The 1.4 m<sup>2</sup> (1.100m x 1.250m) solar modules are produced using the patented CSG technology and are designed for medium to large size solar PV (photovoltaic) installations.

---

Kontakt für die Presse:

Lothar Schwarz Kommunikation (LSK) • August-Bebel-Straße 1c • 06766 Wolfen  
Tel.: 0 34 94 / 63 61 14 • Fax: 0 34 94 / 63 61 05 • E-Mail: [lsk@tpnet.de](mailto:lsk@tpnet.de)

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

from 15.03.2006 page 2 of 3

Main qualities:

### **Durable**

Almost no degradation is observed in CSG modules after exposure to the equivalent of over 30 years of UV radiation. Conventional wafer-based modules degrade by at least 5-10% after such exposure.

### **Resistant**

CSG modules are highly resistant to water intrusion and other environmental factors. The only electrical materials used in the solar cells are environmentally stable silicon and aluminium.

### **Stable**

CSG modules have demonstrated great stability over the years. Their power output remains practically unchanged after many years of outdoor exposure, demonstrating among the best long term stability in performance of any solar module on the market. CSG modules are warranted to retain at least 90% of their rated power for 12 years and 80% of their rated power for 25 years.

## **Employment growth**

Starting with only one employee in Germany assisting the management team in October 2004, hiring of a German workforce began promptly after the laying of the foundation stone ("Grundsteinlegung") on 21 April, 2005. Having hired a core team of administrative, engineering and service personnel as well as a first group of production operators, CSG Solar now has 50 highly skilled employees in Saxony-Anhalt and plans to have 120 employees to support full-scale CSG-2 operations.

The selection of the first group of 18 production operators began on 23 September 2005. Selection was followed by a three month operator training course conducted by CSG Solar with the assistance of the company's first training partner, "Bildungszentrum Wolfen-Bitterfeld".

On 1 December 2005, second and third production operator groups, each with 18 participants, started training at the "Bildungszentrum Wolfen-Bitterfeld" and the "Teutloff Bildungszentrum" in Bitterfeld, a second training partner of the company.

Cooperating with the Federal Office of Employment for employee selection and organisation for this training has proven to be very successful.

## **Long-term sales secured – Further expansion planned**

CSG Solar has signed long-term agreements for supply of CSG solar modules with Blitzstrom GmbH, specialist for innovative PV (photovoltaic) systems and IBC Solar AG, leading PV system integrator from planning to delivery of turn-key solar power plants.

CSG Solar is already working towards further expansion in Thalheim and has acquired an option on land adjacent to its existing facility.

The next step will be a plant with no less than 100 MW production capacity, which will make of CSG Solar one of the biggest solar module manufacturers in Germany, with around 5% market share worldwide.

---

Kontakt für die Presse:

Lothar Schwarz Kommunikation (LSK) • August-Bebel-Straße 1c • 06766 Wolfen  
Tel.: 0 34 94 / 63 61 14 • Fax: 0 34 94 / 63 61 05 • E-Mail: [lsk@tpnet.de](mailto:lsk@tpnet.de)

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

from 15.03.2006 page 3 of 3

### **Major Shareholders**

Q-Cells AG (Deutschland)  
Renewable Energy Corporation (Norwegen)  
IBG Beteiligungsgesellschaft Sachsen-Anhalt mbH (Deutschland)  
APAX Partners Beratungsberatung GmbH (Deutschland)  
Good Energies Inc. (Schweiz)

### **Supervisory Board**

Dr. Thomas Van Aubel, Van Aubel Rechtsanwälte, Vorsitzender  
Anton Milner, Q-Cells AG  
Dr. Erik Sauar, Renewable Energy Corporation  
Dr. Dinnies Johannes von der Osten, IBG Beteiligungsgesellschaft Sachsen-Anhalt mbH  
Prof. Martin Green, University of New South Wales  
Dr. Christian Reitberger, Apax Partners  
Marcel Brenninkmeijer, Good Energies Inc

### **Management Team**

#### **David Hogg (CEO)**

David Hogg is CSG Solar's founding CEO. During the ten years before CSG Solar, he was the Managing Director of Pacific Solar (Sydney), a company dedicated to the development of the Crystalline Silicon on Glass (CSG) technology. Prior to joining Pacific Solar he was responsible for technology commercialisation at Unisearch, the commercial arm of the University of New South Wales (Sydney).

#### **Dawn Mills (CFO)**

Dawn Mills is CSG Solar's founding CFO and the Managing Director of CSG Solar's subsidiary in Sydney, CSG Solar Pty Ltd. Prior to CSG Solar she was the CFO of Pacific Solar which she joined after serving as the CFO of one of Australia's most successful publicly traded biotechnology companies.

#### **Dr. Paul Basore (CTO)**

Dr. Paul Basore is CSG Solar's founding CTO. His previous appointment was as Deputy Research Director at Pacific Solar, where he was responsible for manufacturing development. Before joining Pacific Solar, Dr. Basore was a leader in the R&D program for photovoltaic technology development funded by the US Department of Energy (USA).

#### **Franz Leibl (COO)**

Franz Leibl joined CSG Solar as its COO in July 2005. He has a wealth of experience in the management of high-tech production facilities having held senior positions at Siemens Semiconductor, Infineon Technologies and most recently at DuPont Photomask.

### **Address**

CSG Solar AG	Tel: 49 (0) 03494 6656 -0
Sonnenallee 1 - 5	Fax: 49 (0) 03494 6656-110
D - 06766 Thalheim	Mail: <a href="mailto:csgsolar@csgsolar.com">csgsolar@csgsolar.com</a>
<a href="http://www.csgsolar.com">www.csgsolar.com</a>	

---

Kontakt für die Presse:

Lothar Schwarz Kommunikation (LSK) • August-Bebel-Straße 1c • 06766 Wolfen  
Tel.: 0 34 94 / 63 61 14 • Fax: 0 34 94 / 63 61 05 • E-Mail: [lsk@tpnet.de](mailto:lsk@tpnet.de)