



NEWS RELEASE

CALIFORNIA'S FIRST UTILITY-SCALE PV SOLAR FARM BREAKS GROUND

CalRENEW-1 Will Provide PG&E with Emission-Free Solar Power

For Immediate Release
Date: 8.24.09

Contact: Bill Barnes (415) 218-3935

(MENDOTA, CA --) Cleantech America broke ground today on California's first utility-scale photovoltaic solar project to be approved under the state's Renewables Portfolio Standard (RPS) program. Named CalRENEW-1, the solar farm is located in the City of Mendota in California's Central Valley and will provide 5 megawatts of emission-free solar electricity to PG&E under a long-term power purchase agreement. The facility is scheduled to begin operation before the end of the year and when completed will be one of the largest photovoltaic solar projects in California.

CalRENEW-1 represents a successful collaboration between the Company, PG&E and the City of Mendota to create green jobs, improve air quality and demonstrate the viability of large-scale PV solar to help California meet its renewable energy goals.

"As a zero emission, solar facility, CalRENEW-1 will move the San Joaquin Valley one step closer toward cleaner air and create dozens of green jobs in a city embracing the new clean energy economy. It has taken the support and hard work of many dedicated individuals and we are all extremely excited to be commencing construction," said Bill Barnes, CEO of Cleantech America.

-more-

Mendota Mayor Robert Silva, who earlier shared a California Association for Local Economic Development (CALED) award with Cleantech America for the project, is looking forward to the facility's construction and completion. "The City of Mendota is proud to be a leader in the new clean energy industry," he noted.

Cleantech America was recently acquired by Meridian Energy Ltd. the largest electricity generator in New Zealand, which generates power entirely from renewable resources. CalRENEW-1 is the company's first U.S solar project and is a model for its U.S growth strategy.

CalRENEW-1 will be one of the most advanced photovoltaic solar facilities in the world, helping California meet its stringent renewable energy and carbon reduction goals. Avoided emissions from CalRENEW-1 will be an estimated 6.3 million lbs/year of CO₂, the primary source of global warming and climate change, plus 6,905 lbs/year of NO_x and 5,451 lbs/year of SO₂ (source: EPA eGRID2002 database). In addition to environmental benefits, the solar farm is anticipated to provide economic benefits.

Quanta Services will provide engineering, procurement and construction services for the project, which will utilize Sharp thin film modules, recently introduced in the U.S.

About Meridian Energy

Meridian Energy generates electricity only from renewable energy. The state-owned enterprise serves residential, business and rural customers throughout New Zealand and operates nine hydroelectric stations and three wind farms, which generate an average of 12,500 GWh per year. Meridian is currently building a wind farm in Antarctica to help reduce the environmental footprint of both the New Zealand and U.S. scientific bases by integrating wind generation into the operation

-more-

and displacing the current reliance on diesel fuel. For more information, visit <http://www.meridian.co.nz/>

About Cleantech America, Inc.

Cleantech America, Inc. is a California-based developer of utility scale photovoltaic solar farms and other renewable energy projects. For more information, visit www.cleantechamerica.com or call Cleantech America at (415) 277-5455.

About Quanta Services

With operations throughout North America, Quanta Services is a leading specialized contracting services company, delivering infrastructure network solutions for the electric power, natural gas, telecommunications and cable television industries. The company's comprehensive services include designing, installing, repairing and maintaining network infrastructure nationwide. For more information, visit: <http://www.quantaservices.com>

About Sharp

Sharp Solar Energy Solutions Group, based in Huntington Beach, CA, is a division of Sharp Electronics Corp., the U.S. subsidiary of Sharp Corp., Osaka, Japan. Sharp is a world market leader in solar cell production and offers solar modules for home, business and utility applications. For more information, visit: <http://solar.sharpusa.com>