

Funding Coming to Consortium to Advance New York's Role as Solar Energy Leader

Saugerties, NY - Continuing his efforts to help establish New York as a national and international leader in solar energy research and development, Congressman Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) today announced two new solar manufacturing deals that will create at least 66 new solar industry jobs in the Hudson Valley this year. The congressman said that Precision Flow Technologies, one of The Solar Energy Consortium's (TSEC) partners, has reached an agreement with two other companies to design and manufacture solar energy equipment products at Precision Flow Technologies' Saugerties location. The new pacts were made possible in part because of federal funding Hinchey previously secured to enable TSEC and its partners to attract new solar businesses to the region.

The congressman also announced that Congress has given final approval to his request for an additional \$3.2 million for TSEC and its partners. Hinchey, who is a member of the House Appropriations Committee, had the funds for TSEC and its partners included in a major funding bill for Fiscal Year 2009 that cleared the House last week and is expected to easily pass the Senate this week. TSEC will use the funds to help establish new manufacturing partners, improve the quality and efficiency of solar technology, lower the cost of solar products, and help implement solar technology at local hospitals.

"This new federal funding represents my unwavering commitment to make New York a solar energy research and development hub. The signing of these two new manufacturing deals demonstrates that these federal investments are paying off in a very real way," Hinchey said. "In his address to a joint session of Congress last week, President Obama made it very clear that he intends to devote significant resources to solar energy. By investing in TSEC now, we are positioning New York to play a central role in our national goal of achieving energy independence. In shifting away from oil and fossil fuels and focusing on solar energy, we can create significant economic growth, strengthen national security, and vastly improve the environment. All of this can happen in our backyard and I believe it will."

Precision Flow Technologies, has established a relationship with a major solar equipment manufacturer to design, engineer and build key equipment used in the manufacturing of solar cells and lighting. The agreement will create 60-75 jobs at Precision Flow Technologies' Saugerties location this year. About two-thirds of the jobs will be manufacturing positions and the balance will be engineering and support staff.

In addition, Precision Flow Technologies will engineer, design and manufacture solar equipment for Solar Metrology. Solar Metrology is a global leader in high-performance X-Ray Fluorescence (XRF) analysis tools, specifically engineered for the demanding thin film measurement requirements of the solar electric and power storage industries. This agreement will create 6-8 new jobs at the Saugerties location this year.

Of the \$3.2 million Hinchey secured, a portion will be used for Prism Solar Technologies, Inc. -- TSEC's first major manufacturing partner -- to get established with equipment in Ulster County and begin operations there. Prism's partnership with TSEC is expected to create more than 400 new jobs in Ulster County within the next five years. Prism is a high-technology, research, manufacturing and marketing enterprise, formed in 2005 to manufacture and market a patented state-of-the-art photovoltaic technology expected to catalyze one of the already fastest-growing clean energy industries in the world. In Ulster County, the company will develop and manufacture proprietary holographic optical film technology (nearly 160 MW production capacity by the third year), as well as photovoltaic modules incorporating its Holographic Planar Concentrator ("HPC") technology (nearly 20MW production capacity by the third year).

An additional portion of the \$3.2 million in new federal money Hinchey secured will be used for TSEC's operational needs. Hinchey helped organize and create TSEC in 2007. The consortium is an industry-driven, non-profit organization that provides leadership, organization, resources, and support for the establishment of a major solar energy industry cluster in New York. In addition to Prism, the consortium has also partnered with Solar Thin Films, which combined plan to bring more than 800 new jobs to upstate New York within 4-5 years. Additionally, TSEC is currently partnering with approximately 13 smaller companies. In just the last year, TSEC and its partners have collectively created nearly 100 jobs in the Hudson Valley.

Additionally, \$428,000 that Hinchey secured from Congress will go to one of TSEC's partners to develop a low-cost method for producing silicone film needed for solar products. The research and development funds will be used to evaluate a prototype process to manufacture less expensive solar photovoltaic cells in a process that uses fewer raw materials, thus delivering on TSEC's principal mission of halving the costs of photovoltaic systems and increasing their efficiency.

TSEC will use a separate allocation of \$428,000 to work with three regional hospitals -- Kingston, Benedictine, and Margaretville Hospital -- to develop renewable energy projects and incorporate energy efficiency technologies at the facilities. These projects will help to

dramatically reduce the hospitals' current utility operating costs. In addition to various energy efficiency initiatives, each facility will receive a 20-Kilowatt solar array and solar parking lights. Margaretville Hospital has a nursing home which will receive geothermal heating and cooling.

"Through this new \$3.2 million allocation of federal funds I secured for TSEC, we are investing in the technology that will make solar energy a mainstream source of energy in the years ahead, and we are investing in solar products that will be used almost immediately throughout our communities, particularly at local hospitals," Hinchey said. "In addition to making hospitals more energy efficient, which will reduce energy costs, the new solar products at these area hospitals will also demonstrate the usefulness and effectiveness of solar energy to the public as a whole, which will in turn spur demand for more solar applications."

Congressman John Hall (D-NY), who has long been a strong support of renewable energy, also worked to secure some of the federal funding for TSEC.

"This funding will be a vital asset to help bring solar manufacturing jobs to the Hudson Valley," said Hall. "The Hudson Valley is a prime location for green job creation and TSEC's role is central to boosting these economic opportunities in our region. TSEC's investments in green technology will increase our energy efficiency, reduce our dependence on foreign oil, save taxpayer money, transform our economy, and finally make our country energy independent. I am incredibly grateful to Congressman Hinchey for the leadership and dedication he has shown to TSEC and leading America to energy independence."

Using his seat on the House Appropriations Committee, Hinchey has now secured more than \$14.2 million in federal funds for TSEC and its partners. In 2007, Hinchey secured \$1.476 million in federal funds to help bring solar companies into the consortium. The congressman also secured \$3.2 million in 2007 for C9 Corporation to conduct solar research and development in conjunction with TSEC. In September 2008, Hinchey secured final congressional approval of \$2.4 million for C9 Corporation and PrecisionFlow Technologies to further develop their solar technology in conjunction with TSEC for the U.S. military. The congressman also secured \$4 million in September 2008 for Binghamton University's new solar initiative, the Center for Autonomous Solar Power (CASP). Binghamton University is a TSEC partner. Additionally, the New York State legislature approved \$1.5 million for TSEC last year. Ulster County has also committed approximately \$300,000 to the consortium.

In conjunction with TSEC's university partners, there are large and significant solar related

demonstration projects underway from New York City to the Hudson Valley involving farms, government installations and hospitals. These projects are also staffed with talented volunteers from the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. Throughout its wide array of work, TSEC has partnered with various private manufacturers, including: Solar Summit; Brite Components; SK Enterprises; Terra Watt Power; Central Hudson; L3 Communications; Atlantis Energy; Precision Flow Technologies; Fala Technologies, and various solar panel installers. The consortium is also in talks with other manufacturers as well regarding future investments in the Hudson Valley. TSEC has also partnered with six premier research universities across the state: Binghamton University, the City University of New York, Clarkson University, Cornell University, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, and The State University of New York at New Paltz.

"We have already made extraordinary progress with TSEC; partnering with more than a dozen manufacturers and six New York research universities, and creating nearly 100 jobs," Hinchey said. "The new jobs we're announcing today are very important to the local economy and dozens of households throughout our area, but they are just the tip of the iceberg. Through sustained investment we will grow our economy here in New York while making a significant contribution to the overall state of our country."

To further his ability to secure funds for solar energy initiatives, Hinchey recently gained a seat on the powerful and influential House Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense, which will enable him to direct increased funding to advance the research and development of solar energy products for defense and commercial applications. The congressman said that he believes TSEC is well-positioned to take the lead on a wide array of those solar projects. As the single largest consumer of energy in the world, the U.S. military stands to benefit greatly from investments in solar energy products. Hinchey noted that a greater commitment to renewable energy will lower the military's operational costs, reduce the frequency that combat troops need to refuel and repower equipment, and help the environment through lower greenhouse gas emissions.