

Congressman Used Position on House Appropriations Committee to Secure \$2 Million to Attract Company to Hudson Valley

Highland, NY - Continuing to follow through on his pledge to create jobs and establish the Hudson Valley as a leader in solar energy research and development, Congressman Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) today helped Prism Solar Technologies formally open the first solar manufacturing facility in Ulster County history. Prism recently closed a deal to acquire a site in Highland that includes 6.5 acres of land and a 93,000 square foot manufacturing building. Hinchey used his position on the House Appropriations Committee to secure \$2 million in federal funding to facilitate Prism's move to the region where it expects to create hundreds of local jobs in the solar energy field.

"The opening of Prism Solar Technologies' site in the Hudson Valley represents an enormous step forward in our collective efforts to establish our region as a national and international leader in solar energy research and development," Hinchey said. "In the midst of an extraordinary economic downturn, solar energy is providing a way forward for our local economy that is based on technology of the future not the past. By establishing a manufacturing facility in the Hudson Valley, Prism is committing to create hundreds of local jobs, which will have enormous benefits for families and communities throughout the region. Solar energy can help free our nation from its dependence on foreign oil while strengthening our economy and dramatically improving the environment."

Prism intends to create more than 200 jobs in its first few years of operation in Ulster County and up to 400 jobs over its first five years. The Highland facility will ultimately produce 60 megawatts of solar modules for domestic markets and 1,000 megawatts of HPC (holographic planar concentrator) film for sale to other solar module manufacturers. Prism purchased the new facility for \$3.75 million from Plasmaco, a Panasonic partner. The facility includes glass handling equipment, a complete machine shop, specialty optical equipment, a 30,000 square foot clean room, wet lab, a facility-wide security and monitoring system, shipping and receiving equipment as well as some equipment that the firm reports can be modified to produce thin film and crystalline photovoltaic cells and modules.

When Prism was being courted by other states to locate its solar manufacturing site outside of New York, Hinchey committed resources to Prism that convinced the company to establish a new manufacturing facility in the Hudson Valley. The congressman secured \$1 million for Prism through TSEC as part of the Fiscal Year 2008 budget and an additional \$1 million in the Fiscal

Year 2009 budget. Prism has committed those funds to purchase state of the art equipment and tools, which are on their way to the Highland facility.

"By making investments in the solar industry now, we will see an enormous payoff for decades to come in the form of jobs and tax revenue for our local communities," Hinchey said. "I greatly appreciate Prism Solar Technologies' commitment to Ulster County and look forward to working with the company in the years ahead."

Prism Solar Technologies manufactures solar modules that utilize advanced holographic optics to increase the output of a solar module while lowering the cost by reducing the number of solar cells in its modules. Prism's core technology is based on holographic optics, which can use any photovoltaic (PV) cell technology and spectrally select the desired portion of sunlight, allowing for "cooler" solar cell operation while maintaining an increased power output by concentrating specific solar wavelengths onto the cells. Through its HPC technology, Prism PV modules can achieve greater kilowatt/hr harvesting in the morning and late afternoon while reducing the amount of expensive silicon necessary in a module.

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.