



September 20 2000

Wednesday, September 20, 2000, 1:29 p.m. Eastern Time

ECD/United Solar/Bekaert-ECD Announce New 25 Megawatt Facility

TROY, Mich., Sep 20, 2000 /PRNewswire via COMTEX/ -- United Solar Systems Corp. (United Solar), Bekaert-ECD Solar Systems LLC (Bekaert-ECD) and Energy Conversion Devices, Inc. (ECD) (Nasdaq: ENER) announced today that the city of Auburn Hills, Michigan, has been chosen as the site for United Solar's new 25 megawatt annual capacity manufacturing facility.

NV Bekaert S.A. (Bekaert) and ECD formed a strategic alliance in April pursuant to which Bekaert will invest \$84 million in the joint venture, \$50 million of which will be an investment in the new manufacturing equipment, to be designed and built by ECD. The 25 megawatt annual capacity manufacturing facility, based on ECD's proprietary triple-junction continuous roll-to-roll production technology, will expand United Solar's manufacturing capacity five-fold as well as accelerate market penetration of United Solar's unique lightweight and flexible solar products.

Stanford R. Ovshinsky, chairman and CEO of United Solar, said, "We are very pleased that we are locating our new expanded manufacturing facility in Michigan. This capacity expansion represents a major step in United Solar's goal of producing photovoltaic products which, in high volume, can be competitive with conventional fuels -- a much sought-after solution."

"The new manufacturing equipment will be the largest thin-film photovoltaic production facility in the world," said Subhendu Guha, president of United Solar and Bekaert-ECD. "We thank the City of Auburn Hills, Oakland County and the State of Michigan for providing us the necessary support to locate this plant in Michigan."

In a press release issued by Governor John Engler's office announcing the incentive package to Bekaert-ECD to locate in Michigan, Governor Engler said, "With three powerful companies behind this joint venture, Bekaert, United Solar Systems Corp. and ECD, it's bound to be a success." For the full text of the announcement by the Governor's office, visit ECD's web site at www.ovonic.com.

United Solar is the world leader in thin-film amorphous photovoltaics. ECD and United Solar have pioneered, developed and hold basic patents covering the continuous roll-to-roll

manufacturing of thin-film amorphous silicon alloy multi-junction solar cells. Among its many PV products, United Solar offers a revolutionary new line of solar electric roofing panels, which are unique, flexible, lightweight and architecturally attractive. The UNI-SOLAR(R) roofing products include standing seam metal roofing and solar roofing shingles, which have been lauded by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). Other products include solar battery chargers, framed power modules, Uni-Kit Lighting Systems, which offer significant advantages over conventional solar panels in providing more energy per rated watt under normal outdoor conditions. United Solar's web site address is <http://www.uni-solar.com> .

Bekaert, the worldwide leading manufacturer of steel wire, steel wire products and steel cord, is a fast-growing manufacturer of advanced materials. Its market and technological leadership is based on metal-forming and a wide range of coating technologies. Bekaert is a worldwide company with over 70 production centers and a workforce of 17,000 people.

ECD is a leader in the synthesis of new materials and the development of advanced production technology and innovative products. It has pioneered and developed enabling technologies leading to new products and production processes based on amorphous, disordered and related materials, with an emphasis on advanced information technologies, such as phase change optical memory and electronic memory and switches, and alternative energy, including photovoltaics, fuel cells, hydride batteries and hydride storage materials capable of storing hydrogen in a solid state for use as a feed stock for fuel cells or internal combustion engines or as an enhancement or replacement for any type of hydrocarbon fuel. ECD's web site address is <http://www.ovonic.com>

This release may contain forward-looking statements within the meaning of the Safe Harbor Provisions of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Such forward-looking statements are based on assumptions which ECD, as of the date of this release, believes to be reasonable and appropriate. ECD cautions, however, that the actual facts and conditions that may exist in the future could vary materially from the assumed facts and conditions upon which such forward-looking statements are based.

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