

From Kathleen Weiss

Date Wednesday, April 28, 2010 8:45:45 AM

To Kathleen Weiss

Cc

Subject First Solar Agrees to Acquire NextLight Renewable Power, LLC

 [image001.jpg](#) (6 KB [HTML](#))  [FSNextlight.pdf](#) (239 KB [HTML](#))

For your information, First Solar announced an agreement to acquire NextLight Renewable Power. The news release is attached and below. Please feel free to contact me with any questions. Kathy

First Solar Agrees to Acquire NextLight Renewable Power, LLC

TEMPE, Ariz., Apr 28, 2010 -- First Solar Inc. (Nasdaq:FSLR) and NextLight Renewable Power, LLC today announced they have entered into a definitive agreement for First Solar to acquire NextLight, a leading developer of utility-scale solar projects in the southwestern United States. The acquisition includes a 1,100 megawatt (MW) solar project pipeline, further solidifying First Solar's position as a leader in the U.S. utility renewable power market.

The acquisition of NextLight includes:

570MW (AC) under signed power purchase agreements with western utilities, increasing First Solar's contracted photovoltaic (PV) solar project pipeline to 2,200MW

530MW (AC) of additional PV projects in various stages of development

NextLight's projects, ranging in size from 30MW to 290MW, expand the scope and diversity of First Solar's pipeline. The projects are largely located on private land.

"NextLight has assembled a project pipeline that very much complements First Solar's project portfolio. We are looking forward to having the highly experienced NextLight team join First Solar," said Rob Gillette, First Solar chief executive officer.

"The combination of NextLight and First Solar brings best-in-class power development experience and discipline to the emerging utility-scale solar industry. We look forward to joining the First Solar organization and leveraging their expertise to deliver high-quality solar generation to our customers," said Frank De Rosa, NextLight chief executive officer.

The transaction represents another strategic step in First Solar's expansion in the U.S. utility-scale power market, which began in 2007 with the acquisition of Turner Renewable Energy and continued with the acquisitions of solar project pipelines from OptiSolar in 2009 and Edison Mission Group in 2010.

"Success in today's competitive solar market requires a complete solution for our customers' renewable energy needs," said Gillette. "First Solar is uniquely positioned to deliver utility scale solar power plants including project development, module manufacturing, engineering, procurement and construction (EPC), project finance expertise and operations and maintenance."

First Solar will acquire NextLight in an all-cash transaction that is expected to be completed in the third quarter of 2010, pending the satisfaction of certain closing conditions specified in the merger agreement. Total consideration for the transaction is approximately \$285 million, subject to certain closing adjustments as provided in the merger agreement.

For more information about this announcement, please see the summary on the investor section of First Solar's website, <http://investor.firstsolar.com>

First Solar will file a Current Report on Form 8-K with the Securities and Exchange Commission, dated April 28, 2010, which will contain additional information regarding the merger agreement referenced in this press release.

About First Solar, Inc.

First Solar manufactures solar modules with an advanced semiconductor technology and provides comprehensive photovoltaic (PV) system solutions. The company is delivering an economically viable alternative to fossil-fuel generation today. From raw material sourcing through end-of-life collection and recycling, First Solar is focused on creating cost-effective, renewable energy solutions that protect and enhance the environment. For more information about First Solar, please visit <http://www.firstsolar.com>.

About NextLight Renewable Power, LLC

Headquartered in San Francisco, California, NextLight Renewable Power, LLC is a leading independent solar power development company with photovoltaic projects totaling 1,100 MW in various stages of development including 570 MW under contract with major Western utilities. NextLight was formed in 2007 to respond to the growing demand for clean, carbon-free, utility-scale renewable energy. For more information, visit NextLight at www.nextlight.com.

For First Solar Investors:

This release contains forward-looking statements which are made pursuant to the safe harbor provisions of Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. The forward-looking statements in this release do not constitute guarantees of future performance. Those statements involve a number of factors that could cause actual results to differ materially, including risks associated with the company's business involving the company's products, their development and distribution, economic and competitive factors and the company's key strategic relationships and other risks detailed in the company's filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission. Some important risks specific to the acquisition include the satisfaction of closing conditions for the acquisition and the possibility that the transaction may not be completed, and potential difficulties associated with integrating the acquired project businesses into First Solar's existing operations. First Solar assumes no obligation to update any forward-looking information contained in this press release or with respect to the announcements described herein.

Kathy Weiss

Vice President - Government Affairs | First Solar, Inc.

202-341-9927 | 575 7th Street, NW, #400, Washington, DC 20004





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NextLight

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From Kathleen Weiss **Date** Sunday, March 14, 2010 3:07:18 PM
To Lizzie.marsters@ios.doi.gov
Cc Black, Steve
Subject Meeting request on behalf of Rob Gillette, CEO, First Solar for March 31st

 image001.jpg (6 KB [HTML](#))

Lizzie, please see the meeting request below. I apologize if this is a duplicate email, but I received the not delivered message below, so am resending.

Your message did not reach some or all of the intended recipients.
The following recipient(s) cannot be reached:
Lizzie.marsters@ios.doi.gov on 3/13/2010 4:24 PM
Steve_Black@ios.doi.gov on 3/13/2010 4:24 PM

From: Kathleen Weiss
Sent: Friday, March 12, 2010 4:52 PM
To: Lizzie.marsters@ios.doi.gov
Cc: 'Steve_Black@ios.doi.gov'
Subject: Meeting request on behalf of Rob Gillette, CEO, First Solar for March 31st

Hello Lizzie:

I am writing to request a meeting with Secretary Salazar on behalf of Rob Gillette, First Solar, CEO, on March 31st. The nature of the meeting would be introductory. Rob would take the opportunity to express First Solar's appreciation for the Secretary's support for solar energy, the efforts being undertaken by the Department of the Interior to site projects, and provide an update on our current project development pipeline.

Rob will be in town to deliver a lecture at Johns Hopkins in connection with SAIS's Global Energy and Environment Initiative (GEEI) Leadership Forum from 12:30 to 2:00 pm. If the Secretary's schedule permits a brief meeting anytime on the 31st before or after the lecture, please let me know.

On January 28th, Mr. Gillette testified at the same Senate Environment and Public Works committee hearing as Secretary Salazar. A copy of his testimony is attached which provides additional background information on First Solar.

Thank you for considering our request.



Regards,

Kathy

Kathy Weiss
Vice President - Government Affairs | First Solar, Inc.
202-341-9927 | 575 7th Street, NW, #400, Washington, DC 20004



From Kathleen Weiss **Date** Monday, November 23, 2009 9:22:23 AM
To Kathleen Weiss
Cc
Subject Sale of FS Blythe Solar Farm to NRG Energy

 [FS Blythe_SolarProject_Nov_2009.pdf](#) (1.4 Mb [HTML](#))  [FS NRG Blythe.docx](#) (81 Kb [HTML](#))

Today First Solar announced it has entered into an agreement to sell the 21 megawatt (MW) AC solar energy project it has developed and constructed in Blythe, Calif., to NRG Energy, Inc.

Located in Riverside County about 200 miles east of Los Angeles, the Blythe project is California's first and largest utility-scale photovoltaic (PV) solar generation facility, and among the largest in North America. Construction began in September and is expected to be completed by year-end. Electricity from the plant will be sold to Southern California Edison under a 20-year power purchase agreement.

Using First Solar's industry-leading thin film PV panels that convert sunlight directly into electricity with no water consumption during operation, the project will generate over 45,000 megawatt-hours of electricity per year. The solar generation displaces over 12,000 tons of carbon dioxide emissions per year—the equivalent of taking 2,200 cars off the road. The construction of this project created 175 green jobs. First Solar will provide operations and maintenance services at Blythe under a long-term contract with NRG.

First Solar is developing 1,300 megawatts of PV solar projects under contracts with utilities in California and the Southwest.

Attached is a backgrounder on our Blythe Solar Farm. Please let me know if I can answer any questions not addressed in the attached materials.

Kathy

*Kathleen Weiss
Vice President, Government Affairs
First Solar
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First Solar at a Glance

- Leading manufacturer of PV solar panels
- Developed first prefunded Module Collection and Recycling Program in PV industry
- Supplies panels to developers and independent power producers
- Designs and develops turnkey commercial solar power plants
- Headquarters in Tempe, Arizona
- Manufacturing in Ohio, Germany, and Malaysia
- Employs over 4,000 associates worldwide

Blythe Solar Project

Project Overview

First Solar, a leading manufacturer of photovoltaic (PV) solar panels, is working with Southern California Edison (SCE) to develop a 21 megawatt (MW) PV solar project in Blythe, located in Riverside County in southeastern California. Construction began on the facility in September 2009, and it is expected to be fully operational by the end of the year, creating approximately 175 jobs during construction and providing enough energy to serve the needs of about 6,000 local homes. The Blythe solar project is one of the first utility-scale PV projects in the nation, and the first and largest in California.

The solar array will consist of approximately 350,000, 2' x 4' PV panels manufactured with First Solar's advanced thin film semiconductor technology. First Solar will act as the engineering, procurement, and construction contractor and will monitor and maintain the facility over its lifetime. SCE has contracted to purchase its electricity output for a 20-year period.

First Solar's PV systems are specifically designed to deliver clean, affordable, sustainable solar electricity on a large scale. This advanced technology produces energy even in low light conditions (dawn, dusk, cloudy days) and in high temperatures. In addition, our solar facilities make good environmental neighbors. They are quiet, low-profile, non-polluting, and do not use any water

for operation—a scarce resource in the desert.

First Solar also does its part to be a good neighbor and is sponsoring local events and educational programs that will enhance and support the Blythe community.

This solar project demonstrates leadership for California in the utility-scale solar market, providing the lowest-cost solar energy available and generating Renewable Energy Credits while displacing

over 12,000 tons of carbon dioxide emissions per year, the equivalent of taking 2,200 cars off the road.

Project Quick Facts

- Located in Riverside County, southeastern California
- Will generate over 45,000 megawatt-hours per year
- Power purchaser: Southern California Edison
- Plant site size: 200 acres
- Total capacity: 21MW
- Expected to be fully operational by end of 2009





About First Solar

Clean. First Solar combines the economic benefits of lower costs with superior environmental performance to provide truly sustainable energy solutions. When in operation, First Solar systems generate electricity with no air emissions, no waste production, and no water use, and have the smallest carbon footprint of any PV technology on the market.

Affordable. First Solar has earned the distinction of having the lowest manufacturing cost at less than \$1 per watt—a solar industry first. Low cost—combined with support from communities worldwide—has enabled First Solar to make new strides in meeting the ever expanding demand for clean, renewable energy.

Sustainable. First Solar bases its sustainability on the environmental philosophy of extended producer responsibility. We practice product life cycle management that takes into account the environmental impact of our products from raw material sourcing through an industry-leading prefunded module collection and recycling program. Through this process, First Solar is creating energy solutions today to address the challenges of climate change and energy independence, without imposing waste management burdens upon future generations.

Economic and Environmental Benefits

- Will directly create approximately 175 jobs during construction
- Uses locally sourced labor and materials to the greatest extent possible
- Sited on primarily abandoned and unmaintained land
- No use of water during normal operation
- Low visual profile
- Virtually silent operation
- Will displace over 12,000 tons of carbon dioxide emissions per year, the equivalent of taking 2,200 cars off the road

Questions or Comments

In keeping with First Solar's good neighbor policy, please contact us with your concerns at:

Contact Information	First Solar, Inc. 350 W. Washington Street, Suite 600 Tempe, AZ, 85281 www.firstsolar.com	
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Community Relations	Jesse Atkinson	(510) 625-7415
Federal/Regulatory	Kathleen Weiss	(646) 366-5712





First Solar to Team With Ordos City on Major Solar Power Plant in China Desert

TEMPE, Arizona, Sept. 8, 2009 – First Solar today announced a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Chinese government to build a 2 gigawatt solar power plant in Ordos City, Inner Mongolia, China.

Pursuant to the MOU, signed in the presence of Chairman Wu Bangguo of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of China, the solar project in Ordos will be built over a multi-year period. Phase 1 will be a 30 megawatt demonstration project that will begin construction by June 1, 2010 and be completed as soon thereafter as practicable. Phases 2, 3 and 4 will be 100 megawatts, 870 megawatts, and 1,000 megawatts. Phases 2 and 3 will be completed in 2014 and Phase 4 will be completed by 2019.

“This major commitment to solar power is a direct result of the progressive energy policies being adopted in China to create a sustainable, long-term market for solar and a low carbon future for China,” First Solar CEO Mike Ahearn said at the signing ceremony. “We’re proud to be announcing this precedent-setting project today. It represents an encouraging step forward toward the mass-scale deployment of solar power worldwide to help mitigate climate change concerns.”

The project will operate under a feed-in-tariff which will guarantee the pricing of electricity produced by the power plant over a long-term period.

“The Chinese feed-in tariff will be critical to this project,” Ahearn said. “This type of forward-looking government policy is necessary to create a strong solar market and facilitate the construction of a project of this size, which in turn continues to drive the cost of solar electricity closer to ‘grid parity’ – where it is competitive with traditional energy sources.”

The MOU contemplates that during the implementation of the initial phases of the project First Solar will actively review the possibility of module and supplier manufacturing sites in Ordos, and other considerations required to support a First Solar investment. First Solar also intends to facilitate expansion of the supply chains in China for thin film photovoltaic module production and for the recycling of photovoltaic modules after use.

“We are very pleased to be partnering with one of the solar industry’s global technology leaders in a project of such significance to Ordos’s low carbon future,” said Cao Zhichen, vice mayor of Ordos Municipal Government. “Discussions with First Solar about building a factory in China demonstrate to investors in China that they can confidently invest in the most advanced technologies available.”

The MOU sets forth the agreement in principle of the parties concerning the project and related activities. Final agreement between the parties is subject to the negotiation and execution of definitive agreements among the parties.