STATE OF NEW MEXICO
GOVERNOR BILL RICHARDSON

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Governor Bill Richardson Announces Establishment of New Solar Technology and R & D Facilities at Mesa Del Sol

SANTA FE- Governor Bill Richardson today announced that two new green energy projects, the CFV Solar Test Laboratory and the Fraunhofer R&D Facility, will begin operations at Mesa del Sol later this year. The two entities will create 30-40 new renewable energy jobs and will be a major attraction for solar technology investment in New Mexico. Albuquerque Mayor Richard Berry and Bernalillo County Officials joined Governor Richardson for today's announcement.

"As we build a thriving solar industry in New Mexico, it is important that we attract all aspects of the industry. That is why I am pleased to announce the establishment of the CFV Solar Test Laboratory and the Fraunhofer R & D facility," Governor Richardson said. "Today's announcement shows that our renewable energy policies and pro-business attitude continue to draw international interest and investment."

The CFV Solar Test Laboratory is a joint effort between CSA Group, Fraunhofer Institute for Solar Energy Systems, Fraunhofer USA Center for Sustainable Energy Systems, and VDE Testing and Certification Institute. The new lab will test products for certification to North American and International photovoltaic test standards.

"We are very excited about the location of our new test facility. The vast majority of PV installations in the U.S. will be located in the Southwest, and Albuquerque allows us to be close to those markets," said Christian Hoepfner, President, CFV Solar Test Laboratories, and Director of Technical Operations, Fraunhofer CSE. "The State of New Mexico, Bernalillo County, and the City of Albuquerque are very committed to developing the solar industry in their region and have been extremely helpful in making this project a reality."

In addition to the CFV Solar Test Laboratory, Fraunhofer CSE and Fraunhofer ISE will operate a R&D facility at the same location, focusing on long-term reliability, reduced costs and increased performance of PV modules.

"I'm very excited to have the CFV Solar Test Laboratory and Fraunhofer Center for Sustainable Energy Systems as Albuquerque's newest employers," Mayor Richard J. Berry said. "The R&D and testing functions of this venture not only make Albuquerque more competitive in the

renewable energy industry, but also signal to the world that Albuquerque's solar industry is thriving and cutting-edge."

“CFV's certification and Fraunhofer's research and development will add a new dimension to Bernalillo County’s emergent solar industry,” Bernalillo County Commission Vice Chair Maggie Hart Stebbins said. “This project helps build an economic climate that will attract companies who want to take advantage of our solar resources.”

The new facilities will be located in the former Advent Solar Building in the Mesa del Sol development. This location provides excellent access to the airport, Sandia National Labs, the University of New Mexico, and other major players in the PV supply chain.

About CSA Group:
CSA Group is an independent, not-for-profit membership association serving business, industry, government and consumers. CSA Group consists of three divisions: CSA Standards, a leading standards-based solutions organization, providing standards development, application products, training and advisory services; CSA International, which provides testing and certification services for electrical, mechanical, plumbing, gas and a variety of other products; and OnSpeX, a provider of consumer product evaluation, inspection and advisory services for retailers and manufacturers. For more, visit www.csagroup.org<http://www.csagroup.org/>

About The VDE Testing and Certification Institute:
The VDE Testing and Certification Institute is an independent institution which is nationally and internationally accredited. Under the leadership of Wilfried Jäger, Managing Director, the VDE Institute is responsible for testing and certifying the safety and performance of electronic devices, components and systems for the consumer and the general public using the highest standards of quality. Since 1920, the VDE mark stands for safety and quality in electro and communication technology. The independent test engineers put more than 100,000 electronic products per year to rigid tests before they assign the VDE mark. Worldwide the VDE-experts supervise more than 7,000 manufacturing plants. Cooperation agreements with more than 50 countries make sure that the inspections of the VDE Institute are internationally recognized. More than 200,000 product families and therefore more than a million of products worldwide carry VDE certification marks. The non-profit VDE Testing and Certification Institute in Offenbach employ about 450 staff members. In addition VDE has established a worldwide network, especially in Asia and, therefore, increased its staff by 300 persons, mostly for testing and inspection issues. For more, visit www.vde.com<http://www.vde.com/>

About Fraunhofer ISE and Fraunhofer CSE:
Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft is the largest organization for applied research in Europe with 59 research institutes and 17,000 employees. Fraunhofer USA, Inc. is a non-profit applied research organization headquartered in Plymouth, Michigan with six research centers that collaborate with major universities throughout the U.S. (www.fraunhofer.org<http://www.fraunhofer.org/>). Fraunhofer USA’s Center for Sustainable Energy Systems CSE, located in Cambridge, MA, is an applied research and development laboratory dedicated to the commercialization of clean energy technologies. CSE engages in contract research and development with private companies, government entities, and academic institutions. Current research focuses on PV module design

and manufacturing and energy efficient building technologies.
cse.fraunhofer.org/<http://cse.fraunhofer.org/>

The Fraunhofer Institute for Solar Energy Systems ISE, located in Freiburg, Germany is the largest solar energy research institute in Europe. The Institute is committed to promoting energy supply systems which are sustainable, economic, safe and socially just. ISE develops materials, components, systems and processes for seven different business areas: Energy-Efficient Buildings and Technical Building Components, Applied Optics and Functional Surfaces, Solar Thermal Technology, Silicon Photovoltaics, Alternative Photovoltaic Technology, Renewable Power Generation and Hydrogen Technology. ISE operates several testing centers for various solar technologies and in the building sector.
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