

## THIS MONTH'S FEATURED ARTICLE

Hillsboro, Oreg., Selected for Nation's Largest Production Facility

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The State's Silicon Forest Provides Ideal Workers for SolarWorld Group

HILLSBORO, OR – A region that attracts highly skilled technology workers located within a state that rewards companies that adopt environmental initiatives, were two of the primary reasons SolarWorld Group, headquartered in Germany, selected Hillsboro, Ore., as the location for its newest manufacturing plant.

The new facility, which will open in the summer of 2007, will produce solar cells and wafers and will be the largest plant of its kind in the nation when it is in full production in 2009.

"There were many reasons to come to Oregon," said Boris Klebensberger, COO of SolarWorld Group and president of SolarWorld Industries America. "But the most important factors probably were that the facility itself is perfect for our needs, the State of Oregon supports us with property and business energy tax credits, and we will find highly skilled workers in the area."

Hillsboro, which is located just 18 miles west of Portland, is the home to Intel's largest chip manufacturing plant and a growing cluster of other high-tech companies. With this high concentration of technology companies near by, SolarWorld has the necessary talent pool from which to hire future employees.

"Many of the skills that are required in the semiconductor industry are very transferable to manufacturing of solar cells," said Larry Pederson, director of economic development for the City of Hillsboro. "Also, the state continues to attract young educated professionals simply because it offers the lifestyle they are seeking."

Additionally, SolarWorld executives were attracted to the state because of its Business Energy Tax Credit program and overall business climate that encourages companies to adopt environmental initiatives. Oregon's Department of Energy offers the tax credits to companies that invest in energy conservation, recycling, renewable energy resources and less-polluting transportation fuels.

"The location of SolarWorld's new plant in Hillsboro is not only great news for the economy, it is also a major step forward for the environment," said Oregon State Governor Ted Kulongoski. "SolarWorld will be a major partner in our state's move towards energy independence."

SolarWorld will be moving into an existing production facility previously owned by the Japanese Komatsu Group and which sat idle for 10 years. Not only did the building cost a fraction of what it was initially worth, it is located in a newly established Enterprise Zone, which provides additional tax incentives.

The company will invest approximately \$400 million to convert the semiconductor plant to produce silicon wafer and cells for solar panels. When the plant opens the company expects to hire several hundred employees with the potential of 1,000 by the end of 2009 when the plant is in full production.

About Hillsboro, Oregon

Hillsboro, located in Washington County, is a well-planned, growing community about 18 miles west of downtown Portland. Once a small farming community and government center, Hillsboro has developed into an economically diverse city of more than 80,000 residents and is the fifth largest city in Oregon. Hillsboro is one of Oregon's centers of high technology and is home to such companies as Intel, Planar Systems, FEI, Genentech, Sun Microsystems, TriQuint Semiconductor, and Corillian Corporation, among others. Additionally, Hillsboro is just of 30 minutes from downtown Portland, 60 minutes to the Oregon Coast, and a short drive to recreational opportunities including golf courses, wineries, boating, fishing, hunting, and the scenic countryside.

## About SolarWorld AG

The SolarWorld Group is among the top trio of the solar power industry worldwide. The group is dedicated exclusively to the core business of solar energy, combining all stages of the solar value chain, from the raw material silicon to turn-key solar power plants. The company operates production facilities in Germany, Sweden and the USA. Among the currently most important sales markets are Germany, the United States and in the rest of Europe especially Spain. In addition, sales offices operate in South Africa and Singapore, completing the international alignment of the group. The responsibilities of these offices include the sale of rural solar power solutions that can make an important contribution to the fair and sustainable economic development of the southern hemisphere.

In Freiberg, Saxony, the group operates one of the world's most advanced integrated solar production facilities where the SolarWorld Group turns solar grade silicon into high quality solar wafers, solar cells and solar modules. SolarWorld AG offers a broad and diverse range of products from modules for grid-coupled and grid-independent power generation all the way to a whole class of complete solar power systems for decentralized and centralized electricity generation.

After the IPO at the end of 1999, the company developed within a few years to a fully integrated solar technology group, increasing its workforce to more than 1,350 employees by the beginning of 2007. SolarWorld AG is listed at the stock exchange in the technology index TecDAX, in the Dow Jones STOXX 600 as well as the international MSCI index and the sustainability index NAI.