

Portland facility to make silicon wafers for the solar-power industry

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Santa Clara, Calif.-based Solaicx on Tuesday announced plans for a Portland facility to make silicon wafers for the solar-power industry, a win for Oregon officials eager to promote clean-energy development.

The company, which has leased a 136,000-square-foot facility in the Portland Rivergate District, said the operation would employ 100 by the end of the year.

"We looked at the state of Oregon's generous financial incentives for renewable energy and Portland's deep base of skilled labor in silicon manufacturing, and decided that the port is an ideal place for our continued growth as a company," said Jeff Jones, Solaicx vice president.

State officials applauded Solaicx's announcement, offering it as further evidence Oregon is poised to take advantage of clean-energy technologies.

The state "is on track to become the national leader in renewable energy," Gov. Ted Kulongoski said in a statement.

Just two months ago, Germany's SolarWorld AG said it would invest \$400 million in a plant in Hillsboro to set up the nation's largest solar manufacturing facility.

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