

NREL to Collaborate with SCHOTT Solar on Receiver Tube Coating

November 19, 2009 (Golden, CO) – The U.S. Department of Energy’s National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) has selected SCHOTT Solar, Inc. as a collaboration partner to develop an improved absorber coating for receivers.

NREL and SCHOTT Solar, Inc. signed a Cooperative Research and Development Agreement (CRADA) to collaborate on this project, which is targeted towards parabolic trough Concentrated Solar Power plants (CSP). The new absorptive coating would be applied to the inner steel tube of parabolic trough receivers, which sit at the focal point of parabolic mirrors in utility-scale solar power plants.

Advanced coatings are seen as a key element in creating efficiency improvements for solar power generation.

NREL originally solicited potential partners through the posting of a Federal Business Opportunity. SCHOTT Solar was selected from the more than ten respondents to the business opportunity notice.

“The nation must include concentrating solar power at a utility scale as part of its portfolio of technologies to meet our clean energy goals,” said NREL director Dan Arvizu. “This partnership with SCHOTT Solar reflects NREL’s mission to accelerate cost-competitive clean energy innovations into the marketplace.”

The project will be partially funded by NREL’s Technology Commercialization and Deployment Fund (TCDF). The Department of Energy’s Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy office created the TCDF program to accelerate the commercialization of laboratory technologies.

The announcement of the collaboration comes on the heels of SCHOTT Solar inaugurating the first manufacturing facility in the United States, which produces receivers for parabolic trough CSP power plants. SCHOTT Solar’s manufacturing facility in Albuquerque, NM recently commissioned its second manufacturing line, less than 3 months after the grand opening in May.

“Collaboration with NREL is furthering SCHOTT Solar’s commitment to research and develop activities in the field of solar energy,” said Dr. Gerald Fine, President and CEO of SCHOTT Solar, Inc.

NREL is the U.S. Department of Energy’s (DOE) primary national laboratory for renewable energy and energy efficiency research and development. NREL is operated for DOE by The Alliance for Sustainable Energy, LLC.

About SCHOTT Solar

SCHOTT Solar, with its high quality products, enables the potential of the sun as a nearly inexhaustible source of energy to be utilized. SCHOTT Solar produces important components for photovoltaic applications and solar energy power plants. In the production of receivers for solar power plants, SCHOTT Solar sees itself as a market and technology leader. Receivers from SCHOTT Solar are key components in large-scale power plants that generate electricity from solar energy centrally on the basis of parabolic trough technology and are able to supply entire cities with power. SCHOTT Solar has production facilities in Germany, the Czech Republic, the USA and Spain. The innovative power and technological competence of the company date back to the late 1950s. SCHOTT Solar is a wholly owned subsidiary of the international SCHOTT group. SCHOTT develops special materials, components and systems for the household appliance, pharmaceutical, solar energy, electronics, optical and automotive industries. With approximately 17,000 employees, the SCHOTT Group generated a worldwide turnover of about 3 billion USD in fiscal year 2007/2008.

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