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SunPower and Southern California Edison Sign Contracts for 711 Megawatts of Solar Power

SAN JOSE, Calif., Jan. 10, 2011 /PRNewswire/ -- SunPower Corp. (Nasdaq: SPWRA, SPWRB) announced today that it has signed three power purchase agreements with Southern California Edison (SCE) for delivery of a total of 711 megawatts (MW) of solar power. SunPower will install its solar technology at sites in Rosamond and Los Banos, Calif.

"This is an important turning point for solar photovoltaic power," said Marc Ulrich, SCE's vice president, Renewable and Alternative Power. "The advances in photovoltaic technology, coupled with economies of scale, enable SCE to provide Californians with a large-scale power plant's worth of emission-free energy at a competitive price."

"This historic 711-MW commitment by SCE reflects the growing value of solar photovoltaic technology as a reliable, cost-effective energy resource delivered across rooftops or as a central-station power plant," saidHoward Wenger, president of SunPower's utility and power plants business group. "SunPower's world-leading high-efficiency technology and history of reliable performance will maximize the solar energy delivered to SCE's customers."

SCE estimates that the 711-MW capacity will provide the equivalent power required for more than 460,000 average California homes.

The three contracts include:

- 110 MW in Los Banos, Calif., scheduled to be operational by year-end 2014.
- 325 MW in Rosamond, Calif., scheduled to be operational by October 2016.
- 276 MW in Rosamond, Calif., scheduled to be operational by October 2016.

At the sites, SunPower will deploy the SunPower Oasis™ power plant, the energy industry's first modular solar power block that provides a cost-effective way to rapidly deploy utility-scale solar. Engineered to optimize use of available land, each SunPower Oasis power block uses high-efficiency, 425-watt SunPower solar panels with the SunPower T0 Tracker, which positions the panels to track the sun during the day, resulting in up to 25 percent more energy capture over fixed-tilt solar power systems. Additional SunPower Oasis features include pre-manufactured cabling to minimize on-site wiring, the Oasis smart inverter control system to enhance grid interoperability, and SunPower's Tracker Monitoring and Control System for wireless control of the power plant.

These contracts are a result of SCE's voluntary competitive renewables solicitation, and are contingent on approval by the California Public Utilities Commission and SunPower's ability to secure all applicable environmental reviews and permits.

The capacity of these projects are described in an alternating current (AC) basis.

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SunPower and Iberdrola Renewables Sign Contract to Build 20-Megawatt Solar Power Plant in Arizona

First Deployment of SunPower Oasis Power Plant Block; SunPower Delivering Total 50 Megawatts for Iberdrola Renewables

SAN JOSE, Calif., Dec. 9, 2010 /PRNewswire-FirstCall/ -- SunPower Corp. (Nasdaq: SPWRA, SPWRB) today announced an agreement with Iberdrola Renewables to design and build a 20-megawatt (MW) photovoltaic solar power plant, Copper Crossing, on 144 acres of former private agricultural land in Pinal County, Arizona. The plant, which began construction this month and is expected to create approximately 200 jobs during construction, will be fully operational in 2011.

Last month, SunPower announced an agreement to design and build a 30-MW solar power plant for Iberdrola Renewables in Alamosa County, Colo.

Iberdrola Renewables is developing Copper Crossing, and will own and operate it. The company will sell the electricity under a long-term contract to utility provider Salt River Project for distribution on the region's utility grid. The project will create employment opportunities and provide revenue for schools, health, fire, and other critical services in Pinal County.

"We are excited to enter the U.S. solar business by building our first 50 megawatts with SunPower," said Martin Mugica, executive vice president of Iberdrola Renewables. "Their construction experience and established technology allows us to deliver homegrown, clean and reliable energy to our customers."

The plant will use the SunPower Oasis™ Power Plant product, a fully integrated, modular solar power block that is engineered to rapidly and cost-effectively deploy utility-scale solar projects while optimizing land use. Each power block integrates the SunPower® T0 Tracker with SunPower's high-efficiency, E19 series solar panels, pre-manufactured system cabling, and other advanced features. The power block kits are shipped pre-assembled to the job site for rapid field installation, and offer the highest capacity factor and the most reliable long-term performance.

"SunPower Oasis is a ground-breaking, utility-scale solar solution that optimizes energy production, installation speed, material cost, and long-term reliability," said Howard Wenger, president of SunPower's utility and power plants business group. "We are pleased to be installing our Oasis product for the first time on a plant for Iberdrola Renewables, a global leader in solar power development."

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Tucson Electric Power Orders 11 Megawatts of SunPower Solar Technology for Rooftop Installations

SAN JOSE, Calif., March 28, 2011 /PRNewswire-FirstCall/ -- SunPower Corp. (Nasdaq:SPWRA - News) announced today that Tucson Electric Power (TEP) has awarded SunPower a contract to provide 11 megawatts of solar power systems technology for the utility's TEP Bright Roofs program.

During the next three years, TEP will use the SunPower technology to install, own and operate multiple solar power systems on leased rooftop space atop schools and other large public buildings in the Tucson area. The solar installations will be connected directly to neighborhood distribution circuits where the rooftops are located, and will generate enough clean power to serve more than 1,800 Tucson homes.

"SunPower's high-efficiency solar technology will allow us to produce more power per installation, but it is also cost-competitive, easy to install and low maintenance," said Paul Bonavia, chairman, president and CEO of TEP and its parent company, UniSource Energy (NYSE:UNS - News). "Underutilized rooftops will be used to generate emission-free energy for our community, helping us achieve our renewable energy goals."

TEP is purchasing the SunPower T5 Solar Roof Tile product, the solar industry's first non-penetrating rooftop product that combines a high-efficiency SunPower solar panel, frame and mounting system into a single pre-engineered unit. Tilted at a five-degree angle, the T5 Roof Tile system approximately doubles the energy generated per square meter compared to conventional systems that are mounted flat onto commercial rooftops.

"The TEP Bright Roofs program capitalizes on the growing value of advanced solar technology as a cost-effective energy resource that can be installed quickly anywhere and at any scale," said Howard Wenger, president of SunPower's utilities and power plant business group. "Backed by a quarter century of experience and SunPower's commitment to guaranteed performance, these systems will reliably maximize solar power generation for TEP over the next 25 years or more."

TEP's solar energy resources help the company comply with Arizona's Renewable Energy Standard (RES), which requires Arizona utilities to increase their use of renewable power each year until it represents 15 percent of their energy in 2025. In 2011, the policy calls on TEP to secure 3 percent of its power from renewables, including solar energy, wind, biogas and other resources.

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Southern California Edison Orders 200 Megawatts of SunPower Panels for Large Utility Solar Project

ROSEMEAD, Calif., March 10, 2010 - Southern California Edison (SCE), an Edison International company (NYSE:EIX), and SunPower Corp. (Nasdaq: SPWRA, SPWRB) announced today that SunPower has won a contract to provide solar technology for generating up to 200 megawatts, or 80 percent, of the solar power capacity needed for the utility's large solar photovoltaic installation program.

During the next five years, SCE plans to install, own and operate 250 megawatts of solar generating capacity, most of it on otherwise unused large warehouse rooftops. The large one- to two-million-watt solar installations will be connected directly to neighborhood distribution circuits where the leased rooftops are located.

"The anticipated benefits of this agreement with SunPower include panel costs that will allow us to meet our commitment to increasing our customers' supply of renewable energy while reducing the cost of installed solar photovoltaic power in California," said SCE President John R. Fielder.

SCE is purchasing the SunPower T5 Solar Roof Tile product, which integrates into a single unit a solar panel, frame and roof mounting system, thereby reducing installation time and costs. In addition, the SunPower product was selected because it will allow SCE to produce more power per installation.

"The SCE program reflects the growing value of advanced solar panel technology as a reliable, cost-effective energy resource that can be installed quickly, anywhere and at any scale," said Howard Wenger, president of SunPower's utilities and power plant business group. "SunPower applauds SCE's commitment to rooftop solar development, which is unprecedented in the utility industry."

In a related development, on January 21, 2010, the California Public Utilities Commission approved the process to be used for a second track of solar installations that will
double the size of SCE's photovoltaic program. Regulators previously directed SCE to conduct a competitive solicitation offering long-term power contracts to independent solar power providers willing to install an additional 250 megawatts of photovoltaic generation. SCE hopes to launch the solicitation later this month. Eventually, the two installation tracks will add a total of 500 megawatts to the solar generating capacity of Southern California's power resources - the largest U.S. photovoltaic program ever undertaken.

SCE Solar Project Benefits

New generation sources will be installed in areas where customer demand is rising.

The installations will speed up California's deployment of solar generation while major new renewable energy transmission lines are being built such as SCE's 4,500 megawatt Tehachapi Renewable Transmission Project.

SCE grid engineers will be studying the electrical effects of a high penetration of photovoltaics on distribution circuits and adapting circuits to accommodate these large installations. The information gained will be shared with the power industry.

SCE anticipates its solar power project will create as many as 800 new green jobs in Southern California in the solar industry. The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, one of SCE's project partners, is supporting the project through the expansion of its solar installation apprentice training program.