



Moncada Enters Solar Energy Market with Contract for Applied Materials' SunFab Thin Film Line

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ARAGONA, Sicily & SANTA CLARA, Calif., Jul 09, 2008 (BUSINESS WIRE) -- The Moncada Energy Group s.r.l., a leading private producer of renewable energy in Italy, has awarded Applied Materials, Inc. a contract to establish what will be Moncada's first photovoltaic (PV) module production facility and Applied's first SunFab(TM) line in Italy. The Applied SunFab Thin Film Line will produce large 5.7m² single junction PV modules at a facility to be located in Campofranco, Sicily, and is expected to have an annual rated capacity of 40MW.

Applied's SunFab production line will add to Moncada's existing power production capacity of more than 105MW in wind energy, and will expand Italy's growing infrastructure of renewable energy installations. Moncada plans to use the SunFab-produced modules to build solar farms on some of the same land where its wind turbines are located, effectively double-harvesting its clean energy resources.

"We believe that the large 5.7 square meter modules produced by the SunFab line will enable lower production and installation costs, making them an excellent solution for quickly achieving grid parity in Italy," said Salvatore Moncada, CEO and founder of Moncada Energy Group. "Based on Applied's strong leadership in manufacturing, and its capability to provide complete service support - which is unprecedented in today's solar industry - we are confident that Applied can help us quickly start up our SunFab line and achieve production in 2010."

Sized at 2.2 x 2.6 meters, the SunFab modules are four times larger than today's typical solar panels, making them ideal for cost-saving power plant applications. Applied's SunFab technology has recently been demonstrated to lower installation costs by over 17% compared to smaller area thin film panels.

"Applied Materials is very pleased to have the opportunity to work with Moncada on its first solar venture and we appreciate their confidence in our capabilities," said Dr. Mark Pinto, senior vice president and general manager of Applied's Energy and Environmental Solutions Group. "We are excited to expand our role in Italy - which has the geographic potential to realize early grid parity - from supplying crystalline silicon equipment through our Baccini business to producing the world's largest thin film modules with our SunFab line."

Moncada Energy Group s.r.l. is a leading private Italian producer of renewable energy through its wind farm technology. Moncada's goal is to consolidate its expertise in engineering and wind energy to develop new business units focused on the production of electricity using solar, geothermal and biomass technologies. Visit Moncada's website at www.moncadaenergy.it.

Applied Materials, Inc. (Nasdaq:AMAT) is the global leader in Nanomanufacturing Technology(TM) solutions with a broad portfolio of innovative equipment, service and software products for the fabrication of semiconductor chips, flat panel displays, solar photovoltaic cells, flexible electronics and energy efficient glass. At Applied Materials, we apply Nanomanufacturing Technology to improve the way people live. Learn more at www.appliedmaterials.com.

SOURCE: Applied Materials, Inc.

Applied Materials, Inc.

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