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SOLARA ENERGY DEVELOPS LIGHTWEIGHT PV MODULE USING ADVANCED COMPOSITES

Gilroy, Calif. – October 27, 2003 – Solara Energy, Inc. announced today that it has developed a new solar module that is focused initially at the marine and RV markets with future products that will address the commercial sector. The module incorporates advanced composite materials, the highest efficiency solar cell available today and advanced polymers to yield a highly durable lightweight module that can endure the rigors of marine applications. A prototype of the module will be shown this week at the IBEX show in Miami, FL. Solara has applied for a patent on the new module due to its materials engineering and design innovation.

The new module, dubbed the “MP” Series PV module will be available early next year with an initial capacity of approximately 100 Watts. The MP100 module’s form factor is 42” x 22” x .125” and weighs under 5 lbs. Modules can be easily mounted and shaped to match the form of what they are being attached to. This allows the OEM and end customer to build larger arrays on vessels and coaches where it would have been difficult or impossible to have done so before. Their lightweight design and unique synthetic surface eliminates the potential of broken glass like that found in traditional heavy and inflexible PV modules, while maintaining very high efficiency and durability. For OEM applications, modules can be configured into arrays and integrated into the deck surface. Once installed they can be sealed into the deck.

“This is a phenomenal opportunity for us,” said Mark Weiss, president of Solara Energy, Inc. “We became involved last year with solo circumnavigation yacht racing when we began working with three teams that were racing in the Around Alone race. We had forty of our stainless steel-backed modules show remarkable success during that race. However, afterward, skippers were seeking a more competitive advantage and wanted to further reduce the weight of the modules while increasing their efficiency. We took this information as an opportunity to address a market that has been widely overlooked due to the difficulties associated with durability in marine environments. What we came up with was a 50% reduction in weight and a 50% increase in efficiency.”

Following the initial launch of the marine-grade module, Solara will develop a lightweight framed module for commercial and residential markets. These modules will have capacities in the 200 Watt range and will weigh less than 20 lbs. as compared to current products that weigh nearly 40 lbs. In addition, a building tile will be developed for flat-roof installations that will eliminate the need for roof penetrations while adding roof protection and an insulating layer on the building.

About Solara Energy, Inc.:

Solara Energy, Inc., is an alternative energy company based in Gilroy, California. Solara Energy designs, installs and maintains solar PV generation systems for residential and commercial applications, and develops cutting-edge PV products for marine and RV applications. More information on Solara Energy, Inc., can be found on the company’s website, www.solaraenergy.com

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