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Energy Systems and Installation looks to the Future of Solar Energy Deployment
Company holds opening celebration and reception at headquarters

JONESTOWN (March 29, 2010) -- Energy Systems and Installation (ESI) opened its new headquarters in Lebanon County with a flash – not a bang – by announcing plans for one of the largest solar energy installations in the Commonwealth. Among the public officials attending were U.S. Congressman Tim Holden (D-17), Pennsylvania Secretary of Agriculture Russell Redding, and Pennsylvania representatives Tim Seip (D-Schuylkill/ Berks) and RoseMarie Swanger (R-Lebanon).

ESI, a commercial scale solar integrator, helps companies design, finance, purchase, and install solar powered systems to generate electricity. ESI has worked with municipalities, large companies and farms to incorporate cost effective green technologies into their operations.

Under the contract signed today, ESI will construct a 1 megawatt solar array in the town of Sacramento, located in rural Schuylkill County. The project will provide electricity for the largest potato grower in the state, Sterman Masser Potato Farms. Once completed, it will be the 2nd largest solar array in the state – only a three megawatt system in Bucks County being larger. The project will occupy six acres of land and offset approximately 40 percent of the plant's electricity needs, which is the equivalent to powering 95 homes.

The cost of the project will be aided by state and federal incentives designed to promote renewable energy technology. Sterman Masser Potato Farms was awarded a \$1 million grant through the Commonwealth Finance Authority. The money was provided as part of the \$650 million Energy Independence Fund that Gov. Edward G. Rendell signed into law in 2008. A \$1.6 million U.S. Treasury Grant will also assist with the financing of the solar array. This program was established by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The remaining money to finance the project will be provided by the Masser family and PNC Bank.

"I am pleased the Energy Independence Fund, which I supported, is again helping to keep jobs in Schuylkill County and harnessing alternative energy to benefit our area. Expanding our alternative-energy capacity can help to reduce the load

on the power grid, which helps to hold down electric rates for businesses and residential customers and provides a boost for local economic development, said Rep. Seip. "I commend Sterman Masser Potato Farms for being a leader in harnessing alternative energy and ESI for its work in this vital sector. I will continue working to direct more state resources to Schuylkill and Berks counties to benefit our economy."

Participating in the contract signing was ESI CEO Corey Wolff and David Masser, President of Sterman Masser Potato Farms.

"When people think of Pennsylvania, they don't typically think of power from the sun," noted Corey Wolff. "But experienced growers like the Massers who harvest and process thousands of tons of potatoes a year understand the potential of sun power and now, ESI can provide them with the technology to convert sunshine into electricity to bring down utility costs."

Sterman Masser Potato Farms is no stranger to conservation and the incorporation of green technology. They are currently using gas from a nearby landfill to help power their Keystone Potato processing unit. David Masser, president of Sterman Masser, notes that incorporating the solar project will help them save money on power going forward and help preserve jobs at their facilities.

"As a long-time advocate for all sources of energy, ESI is a shining example of local companies effectively using alternative energy," Congressman Holden said. "As Chairman of the Agriculture Conservation, Credit, Energy, and Research Subcommittee, it is fulfilling to see alternative energy being used for agricultural gain - in this case the Sterman Masser Potato Farms. In addition, this project will maintain family-sustaining jobs in Lebanon and Schuylkill Counties."

ESI also plays a key role in the education and job training for solar energy. The company has partnered with Harrisburg Area Community College (HACC) to provide certified training courses in solar and other alternative energy technologies. ESI expects to train over 150 new installers in 2010.

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