



Press Release

First Solar Announces Tripling of Production Capacity

- Capacity Expansion to 75MW in Ohio Manufacturing Facilities

Perrysburg, Ohio, March 24, 2005 – First Solar announces the tripling of its production capacity to approximately 75MW in Ohio, commencing in March 2005. The expansion project will enable First Solar to produce approximately 40MW in 2006 and the full 75MW in 2007. “The expansion is prompted by strong customer demand for the product and our ability to replicate the current process while continuing to rapidly increase conversion efficiencies” said Mike Ahearn, CEO of First Solar.

This announcement comes after the successful scale up of First Solar’s base manufacturing plant in Perrysburg, Ohio to a “steady state” annual production volume of 330,000 modules, representing 21.5MW of capacity in 2005 at 9% average module efficiency. “The successful scale up of this advanced thin film process represents a major milestone for First Solar, marking our shift from development to high volume production” said Ahearn. The production figures reported by First Solar equate to an average annual compound growth rate of over 230% over 2002-2005, making it one of the fastest growing solar module manufacturers in the World.

"These accomplishments strengthen the position of U.S. manufacturers as leaders in the next generation of thin film solar technologies and accelerate our national drive to make solar electricity competitive with conventional electricity costs," said David Garman, Assistant Secretary of Energy. The Department of Energy, through the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, has played an instrumental role in the development and support of First Solar’s technology, according to Mr. Ahearn.

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About First Solar

First Solar manufactures solar modules with an advanced thin film semiconductor process that significantly lowers solar electricity costs. By enabling clean renewable electricity at affordable prices, First Solar provides an economic alternative to peak conventional electricity and the related fossil fuel dependence, greenhouse gas emissions and peak time grid constraints. Unlike central grid renewable energy options that are viable only in specific locations with the required natural resources and central grid transmission capacity, First Solar's technology enables consumers to generate their own "on-site" electricity virtually anywhere the sun shines.

For more information, please visit www.firstsolar.com, or contact:

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