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Tessera Solar and Stirling Energy Systems Calico (Solar One) Project Application Achieves Important Permitting Milestone with the California Energy Commission

(PHOENIX, AZ – MAY 6, 2009) Following last week's official launch of Stirling Energy Systems (SES) solar project development company, Tessera Solar, the Application for Certification (AFC) for its 850-megawatt solar generation project, Calico (Solar One), has been deemed "data adequate" by the California Energy Commission (CEC). Data adequacy is a key step in the CEC permitting process and initiates the CEC's 12-month timeline to complete processing of the Calico (Solar One) project.

"We're pleased that both the Solar One and Solar Two projects are continuing to make progress in the California permitting process," said Bob Lukefahr Chief Executive Officer of Tessera Solar North America. "With this important milestone behind us, we remain on track to have the initial phase of more than 1,500 megawatts of new solar projects shovel-ready and into construction by next year. We expect to begin construction next year once our sister company, Stirling Energy Systems, begins full-scale commercial production of their break-through SunCatcher™ solar power system."

Providing electricity for approximately 600,000 homes at peak hours in Southern California, the facility will be located on 8,200 acres in San Bernardino County, east of Barstow, in the Mojave Desert. The Calico (Solar One) AFC was submitted to the CEC on December 1, 2008. The 5,000-page application addresses potential issues related to developing the project including environmental, biological and workforce impacts.

SES has a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) with Southern California Edison (SCE) for the output of the Calico (Solar One) project, which will be constructed in two phases and comprise 34,000 SunCatcher™ dishes. The first phase will generate 500 megawatts and the second phase will generate up to 350 megawatts helping SCE and the state of California achieve their renewable energy goals.

The SunCatcher™ system consists of an array of curved glass mirror facets that act as a solar concentrator in a dish structure. These mirrors collect and concentrate solar energy into a closed-loop, high-efficiency, four-cylinder reciprocating Solar Stirling Engine. Each dish generates 25,000 watts of power. The SunCatcher™ has numerous environmental advantages, including the lowest water use of any thermal electric generating technology, minimal grading and trenching requirements, no excavation for foundations, the highest sun-to-grid efficiency of any solar generating technology and converts sunlight into electricity with no greenhouse gas emissions, the cumulative result of which minimizes both cost and land use.

(more)

SES and Tessera Solar's other California solar generation project, Imperial Valley (Solar Two), achieved data adequacy last October. Both projects are scheduled to begin construction in 2010.

Stirling Energy Systems, Inc. (SES)

SES was formed in 1996 to develop and commercialize advanced solar technology. The company maintains corporate headquarters in Phoenix, Arizona, offices in Berkeley and Tustin, California, and engineering and test site operations at Sandia National Laboratories in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The SES SunCatcher™ is a concentrating solar power (CSP) technology that uses mirrors to concentrate the sun's energy and convert it to electricity. CSP technologies include dish systems, parabolic troughs, power towers and concentrating photovoltaic. The dish concentrator tracks, collects and focuses the sun's energy and the Stirling engine converts the thermal energy to grid quality electricity. The SunCatcher™ technology has significant advantages over other CSP technology including power conversion efficiency, cost competitiveness and low water usage. The SunCatcher™ is a zero emission renewable energy technology. NTR owns a controlling stake in SES Inc.

Tessera Solar

Tessera Solar North America, headquartered in Houston, Texas and Tessera Solar International, based in London, United Kingdom, are exclusively responsible for the global deployment of the SunCatcher™ solar dish Stirling system, the solar electricity generation technology that is manufactured by our sister company SES Inc., headquartered in Phoenix, Arizona, USA.

NTR plc

NTR plc is a leading international developer and operator in renewable energy and sustainable waste management. Founded in 1978, NTR has evolved from being a developer and operator of infrastructure in Ireland to an international developer and operator of renewable energy (wind, solar and bio-ethanol), and sustainable waste management businesses in the USA, UK and Ireland. The company employs over 4,100 people and has a market capitalization approximating €500m.

For more information, visit <http://www.ntr.ie>, <http://www.stirlingenergy.com> and <http://www.tesseractosolar.com>.

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