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## **Tessera Solar and CPS Energy Sign a 20-Year Power Purchase Agreement to Build Western Ranch, a 27-MW Solar Project in West Texas**

HOUSTON, TX and SAN ANTONIO, TX (June 22, 2009) – Tessera Solar and CPS Energy, the nation's largest municipally owned energy company providing both natural gas and electricity, announced the signing of a 20-year Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) today to develop a 27-megawatt (MW) solar project in West Texas using the SunCatcher™ power system manufactured by Tessera Solar's sister company, Stirling Energy Systems.

The PPA with San Antonio's CPS Energy is the first Texas project for Tessera Solar and will complement the company's 1,500 MW of California projects in Imperial Valley and the Mojave Desert.

With the signing of this PPA, CPS Energy is moving forward with its commitment announced in the summer of 2008 to pursue up to 100 MW of resource capacity from solar energy. This is part of CPS Energy's ambitious overall goal to achieve renewable-energy capacity equal to 20 percent of customers' peak electrical demand by 2020.

"We are extremely pleased to be working with CPS Energy on the Western Ranch Solar project," said Tessera Solar North America CEO Bob Lukefahr. "CPS Energy is a company with a long history of leadership in renewable power, and this project is another example of its commitment to long-term sustainable energy. By choosing Tessera Solar and the SunCatcher™ power system, CPS Energy is able to provide San Antonio with low cost, high-efficiency solar power. And since the SunCatcher™ is designed and manufactured here in North America, CPS Energy is not only delivering low cost solar power, but it is also supporting manufacturing jobs here at home."

"This marks our first purchase of solar-generated energy, and we look for it to be the start of a successful solar program for many years to come," said CPS Energy CEO Milton B. Lee. "Solar will complement our diversified approach to producing electricity. We look forward to working with Tessera to help satisfy our customers' electric needs in Greater San Antonio."

The Western Ranch Solar project is expected to break ground in Summer 2010, assuming timely completion of regulatory approvals, with the first units expected to come online by the end of 2010. The 27 MW solar project, comprised of 1,080 SunCatcher™ dishes, will create 100 construction jobs and up to 20 permanent jobs. Furthermore, the investment in the project will create a significant property tax base to support schools, hospitals and other services in West Texas counties.

The SunCatcher™ system uses precision mirrors attached to a parabolic dish to concentrate the sun's energy onto a high-efficiency Stirling Engine. Each dish can generate up to 25,000 watts of power and has been certified by Sandia National Laboratories as having the highest sun-to-grid energy conversion in the world.

In addition to its efficiency and cost advantages, the SunCatcher™ uses less than 1% of the water required by competing solar thermal technologies.

(more)

Western Ranch Solar is expected to be one of the first utility-scale solar projects built in Texas and can be expanded to as much as 130MW.

Today's announcement is also supported by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), as San Antonio is one of only 25 cities in the nation to receive the Solar America City designation by the government agency. DOE provides financial and technical assistance to support the cities' innovative efforts to accelerate the adoption of solar energy technologies. San Antonio, under its Solar America City partnership, is working to remove barriers to widespread solar deployment in the city and help cost effectively meet its solar installation goals by focusing on large scale solar installations.

#### **About CPS Energy**

*CPS Energy is the nation's largest municipally owned energy company providing both natural gas and electric service. Acquired by the City of San Antonio in 1942, the company serves approximately 695,000 electric customers and more than 320,000 natural gas customers in and around America's seventh-largest city. CPS Energy ranks among the nation's lowest-cost energy providers, owns the highest financial ratings of any electric system in the U. S. and stands number 1 in wind-energy capacity among municipally owned utilities across the country.*

#### **About Tessera Solar**

*Tessera Solar North America, headquartered in Houston, Texas, with offices in Scottsdale, Arizona and Berkeley, California, and Tessera Solar International, based in London, England, are exclusively responsible for the global deployment of the SunCatcher™ solar dish Stirling system, the solar electricity generation technology manufactured by our sister company SES Inc., headquartered in Scottsdale, Arizona, USA.*

#### **About Stirling Energy Systems (SES Inc.)**

*SES Inc. was formed in 1996 to develop and commercialize advanced solar technology. The company maintains corporate headquarters in Scottsdale, Arizona, an office in 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.*

#### **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 €657m.*

#### **About Solar America Cities**

*The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Solar America Cities partnership supports 25 cities committed to making solar a mainstream energy source. Cities, the nation's centers of electricity consumption, are uniquely positioned to reduce global climate change, strengthen America's energy independence, and improve air quality by converting to solar energy sources. DOE provides financial and technical assistance to support the cities' innovative efforts to accelerate the adoption of solar energy technologies.*

*For more information, visit [www.cpsenergy.com](http://www.cpsenergy.com), [www.tesseractosolar.com](http://www.tesseractosolar.com), [www.stirlingenergy.com](http://www.stirlingenergy.com), [www.ntr.ie](http://www.ntr.ie) and [www.solaramericacities.energy.gov](http://www.solaramericacities.energy.gov).*

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