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Roofs of an admiral's office, central barracks, shopping center among five sites

HILLSBORO, Ore., June 2, 2011 – A combined 2.4 megawatts in arrays of high-performance **SolarWorld solar panels** cover the roof of five important buildings at the historic U.S. Navy base at Pearl Harbor, now known as Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, on the Hawaiian island of Oahu.

The \$15 million project, funded under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, comprises an important stride in the U.S. military's intensive base improvements to increase its energy independence using a renewable energy technology that requires no fuel, parts, maintenance, emissions or noise. The largest U.S. solar technology manufacturer for more than 35 years, SolarWorld supplied the solar panels from its factories in Hillsboro, Ore., and Camarillo, Calif., the latter of which has produced crystalline silicon photovoltaic technology since the late 1970s.

The solar systems, engineered, procured and installed by California-based DRI Energy under a contract with Hawaii-based Niking Corp., crown five buildings:

A 1927-built BEQ (Bachelor Enlisted Quarters), a three-floor structure featuring two wings that enclose a recreational field on three sides. This system totals about 250 kilowatts.

A 1940-era three-floor headquarters building for two major commands at Pearl Harbor. System: 109 kilowatts.

A massive Navy Exchange (NEX) shopping center for military and family members that is similar to a general-merchandise big-box retail store. System: 852 kilowatts.

An adjacent Navy Commissary building, much like a giant food supermarket. System: 813 kilowatts.

A large distribution facility and furniture retail outlet associated with the NEX. System: 378 kilowatts.

Combined, the arrays are expected to produce 3.4 gigawatt-hours of electricity annually, enough to power about 440 homes. Installation of the solar panels is complete, but final configuration of associated electrical systems as well as the systems' commissioning are not expected until this coming fall.

Kevin Kilkelly, president of SolarWorld Americas, said the projects are a source of pride for the more than 1,300 U.S. manufacturing, sales and other employees of SolarWorld.

"It's gratifying for them to know that the high-quality products they have labored so long to perfect and produce now help power one of the best-known U.S. historical and military sites," Kilkelly said. "In that light, these projects may be the best signs yet of the nation's embrace of domestic solar technology."

For images of the projects buildings and arrays, go to www.solarworld-usa.com/blog.

About SolarWorld (www.solarworld-usa.com)

SolarWorld (ISIN: DE0005108401) is a worldwide leader in offering brand-name, high-quality, crystalline silicon solar-power technology. The company's strength is its fully integrated solar production. From silicon as the raw material through wafers, cells and panels all the way to turn-key solar systems of all sizes, the group combines all stages of the solar value chain. The central business activity is selling high-quality panels into the installation and distribution trades and wafers to the international solar cell industry. Group headquarters are located in Bonn, Germany, with sales sites in Singapore, South Africa, Spain, France as well as in the U.S. state of California. The group's largest production facilities operate in Freiberg, Germany, and Hillsboro in the U.S. state of Oregon. Sustainability is the basis of the group strategy. Under the name Solar2World, the group supports community aid projects using off-grid solar-power solutions in developing countries, exemplifying sustainable economic development. Worldwide, SolarWorld employs about 3,300 people. SolarWorld AG has been quoted on the stock exchange since 1999 and today is listed on, among others, the TecDAX and ÖkoDAX as well as in the sustainability index NAI.

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