



Rob Stokes MP

Parliamentary Secretary for Renewable Energy

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FIRST SOLAR OPENS SYDNEY HEADQUARTERS

Parliamentary Secretary for Renewable Energy, Rob Stokes has welcomed the decision by First Solar, a world leader in photovoltaic (PV) solar panels and systems to open its new Australian headquarters in Sydney.

Providing renewable energy solutions to countries throughout Europe, North America, the Asia-Pacific and the Middle East, the NSW Government helped facilitate First Solar's investment in Sydney through NSW Trade & Investment.

"First Solar is a leader in the manufacture of photovoltaic solar panels and the engineering, procurement and construction of utility scale PV projects," Mr Stokes said.

"The company's presence in Sydney further cements NSW's growing stature as Australia's leading clean energy industry hub."

First Solar's Vice President of Business Development and Sales, Jack Curtis said Australia has a world class solar resource and the growth of a sustainable solar industry is expected for years to come.

"Australia's proximity to key global growth markets such as China, India and Thailand is also a key advantage for us," Mr Curtis said.

"I thank NSW Trade & Investment for its assistance with local business information, government and industry contacts, and potential site locations."

In Australia, First Solar has supplied panels to projects such as the Adelaide Showground and is currently implementing Australia's first utility-scale solar project, the 10-megawatt Greenough River Solar Farm near Geraldton, to be completed in mid-2012.

First Solar manufactures advanced thin-film solar PV panels and provides comprehensive end-to-end solutions. From raw material sourcing through end-of-life collection and recycling, First Solar is focused on creating cost-effective, renewable energy solutions that protect and enhance the environment.

For more information about First Solar, visit <http://www.firstsolar.com>