



Press Release

July 13, 2009

TÜV SÜD America and Renewable Energy Test Center (RETC, LLC) Partner to Provide Photovoltaics Testing and Certification Services

Peabody, Massachusetts. TÜV SÜD America Inc. has announced a cooperation agreement with Renewable Energy Test Center (RETC LLC), an engineering services and test provider based in Fremont, California. Through this cooperation, RETC will provide TÜV SÜD a global partner for testing and certification for photovoltaics (PV) and renewable energy products, including third-party outdoor performance and reliability testing.

RETC will complement TÜV SÜD's strategy to deliver one-stop shop capabilities for the growth of PV testing and certification services. The RETC-TÜV SÜD America partnership will help accelerate TÜV SÜD's plan to establish a strong foothold in the global solar energy market by obtaining accreditation to UL 1703 in addition to TÜV SÜD's existing accreditation to IEC 61215, IEC 61646, IEC 61730, and UL 1741. RETC, located in the heart of the Silicon Valley, will leverage its semiconductor-experienced engineers and process knowledge, Silicon Valley's infrastructure, and the solar energy market growth in the U.S. to provide a unique advantage. Furthermore, the passing of the Federal stimulus package indicates that the demand for PV services in the U.S. will continue to increase significantly over the next several years.

"With the lengthy turn-around times of PV testing and certification both in the U.S. and globally, the RETC management team believes that this is constraining the advancement of solar energy technologies," stated Alelie Funcell, President and CEO of RETC. "This PV testing bottleneck offers a strategic market entry opportunity for RETC to ramp up its planned testing capabilities starting in North America. Partnering with TÜV SÜD, who is recognized for its global presence and expertise in testing, inspection, and certification services, will propel RETC into achieving the required accreditations and certifications. TÜV SÜD's brand name and prestige will provide RETC with solid market acceptance," added Ms. Funcell.

"The collaboration with RETC reinforces our commitment to increase safety and value for our customers. More importantly, it combines RETC's rigorous, high-quality, process-driven semiconductor thinking, resulting in a mature, experienced partner to help navigate through the very new, complex, and rapidly growing PV market," concluded Mr. Karsten Xander, TÜV SÜD America's President and CEO.

For more information on TÜV SÜD America's Photovoltaics Testing, visit <http://tuvamerica.com/services/photovoltaics.cfm>.

Media Relations:

<p>For more information, contact: Regan Arndt Program Manager TÜV SÜD America Inc. 858.678.1416 rarndt@tuvam.com</p>	<p>For editorial information, contact: Carmen A. Hopwood Marketing Manager TÜV SÜD America Inc. 978.573.2577 chopwood@tuvam.com</p>

For RETC information, contact:

Alelie Fucell
President and CEO
RETC, LLC
408.859.7616
alelief@retc-ca.com

About TÜV SÜD America Inc.

TÜV SÜD America Inc., a subsidiary of TÜV SÜD AG, Munich, Germany, is a leading globally recognized testing and certification organization. TÜV's Auditing Division provides management system certification services to ISO 9001, ISO 14001, AS9100, AS9120, ISO 13485, TL 9000, Safe Quality Food (SQF), ISO 22000, and more. TÜV's Testing Division offers Electrical and Mechanical Product Safety, Electromagnetic Compatibility (EMC) testing, Environmental Testing, NRTL and SCC certification, CE Marking assistance, Restricted Substance Services, International Compliance Services, and more. The company's Industry Division offers a full suite of services for pressure equipment manufacturers and materials producers exporting products to the European Community. Globally, TÜV SÜD has over \$1.5 billion sales and 14,000 employees at more than 600 locations worldwide.

About RETC, LLC

RETC is an engineering services and an independent testing and certification provider for photovoltaic and renewable energy products. RETC is establishing its state-of-the-art PV test laboratories in Fremont, California and is expected to be operational by early 2010. The company consists of a highly experienced leadership and engineering team, with expertise in quality, reliability testing, and manufacturing operations. RETC will have the capacity and scope to certify PV products for North America, Europe, and Asia. Initially, the company will offer the following Standards for PV testing: IEC 61215, IEC 61730, IEC 61646, IEC 62108, UL 1741, and UL 1703, and other renewable energy product testing that will complement these IEC and UL standards. RETC will also offer Outdoor Endurance Testing capabilities to support the growing need for third-party performance validation and monitoring of PV products, including BOS devices (tracking system controls and monitoring, inverters, fuel cells), and other renewable product components. RETC plans to become a PV test lab under TÜV SÜD America's NRTL scope and obtain CBTL status to achieve the ultimate offering in industry quality standards, and the most sought-after certification program for international trade.