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## PRESS RELEASE

### GREEN LIGHT TO START WORKS AT ITALY'S BIGGEST PHOTOVOLTAIC PANEL FACTORY

- *Enel Green Power, Sharp and STMicroelectronics have signed a binding commitment letter for a project financing agreement for 150 million euros, following 49 million euros funding set aside last week by the CIPE (Italian Joint Ministerial Committee for Economic Planning).*
- *The equal share joint venture, named 3Sun, now in place, will start operations at the factory in Catania (Sicily) and produce photovoltaic panels for an initial capacity of 160 MW per year.*
- *Go-ahead also given for the ESSE joint venture between Enel Green Power and Sharp for the development of solar farms set to generate over 500 MW.*

**Rome, Osaka and Geneva, August 2, 2010** – Today, Enel Green Power, Sharp and STMicroelectronics have signed a binding letter of commitment for a project financing agreement for 150 million euros for the development of what will be Italy's biggest photovoltaic panel factory.

The 3Sun equal share joint venture thus enters its operational phase, in line with the agreement signed by the three partners on January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2010, with its statutory bodies having been appointed today. The goal of the joint venture is to start operations at the Catania factory for the integrated production of innovative photovoltaic cells and panels.

The Sicilian factory's initial photovoltaic panel production capacity, equivalent to 160 MW per year, is to be financed through a combination of self-financing, funding from the CIPE (the Italian Joint Ministerial Committee for Economic planning) - which recently set aside 49 million euros for this project - and project financing provided by leading banks. Each partner has underwritten one third of the equity - with a commitment of 70 million euros in cash or in tangible and intangible assets, as previously announced – and holds one third of the shares in the new joint venture.

Each partner brings specialised knowledge and skills to 3Sun. Enel Green Power is expert in developing renewable energy on an international scale and in project management. Sharp contributes its exclusive triple-junction thin-film technology, in production since the spring of this year at the Sakai factory in Japan. STMicroelectronics

has manufacturing know-how with highly trained specialists in state-of-the-art technology sectors such as microelectronics.

The factory, whose yearly output is expected to reach 480 MW over the coming years, will be Italy's largest photovoltaic panel manufacturer from the first day of operation. Panel production at the Catania plant is scheduled to begin in the second half of 2011.

Enel Green Power and Sharp have also created a separate joint venture, Enel Green Power & Sharp Solar Energy – ESSE, for the construction and joint management of solar farms for the generation and sale of electricity in the Mediterranean region, using the panels produced by the Catania plant. The total installed capacity is projected to be over 500 MW by 2016.

Factory output will also serve the most promising solar markets in Europe, the Middle East and Africa, with a particular focus on the Mediterranean area, the region in which Enel Green Power and Sharp already have extensive sales networks. Enel.si, a subsidiary of Enel Green Power specialised in the installation of photovoltaic systems for the retail market, will also take part in the marketing, selling panels through its own franchise network of over 500 approved installers, located throughout Italy.

#### **About Enel Green Power**

Enel Green Power is the Enel Group company devoted to the development and management of power generation from renewable sources at the international level, with a presence in Europe and the Americas. It is one of the global leaders in its industry thanks to the some 21 billion kWh of electricity generated from water, sun, wind, geothermal and biomass. The company's installed capacity exceeds 5,700 MW, produced by more than 600 plants in operation around the world.

For more information, please visit [www.enelgreenpower.it](http://www.enelgreenpower.it)

#### **About Sharp**

Since its founding in 1912, Sharp has developed numerous world-first and Japan-first products, including the first Japan-made radios, TVs, and the world's first all-transistor/diode desktop calculator. Sharp has contributed to society by commercializing these unique products.

Today, in addition to its core LCD TV business, Sharp is also focusing on its solar cell business. It has been more than 50 years since Sharp first started researching solar cells. Over this long period of time, solar cells made by Sharp have been used not only in residential and industrial applications, but also on lighthouses and satellites, thus proving their long-term reliability. In March 2010, Sharp Corporation started operations at its new thin-film solar cell plant in GREEN FRONT SAKAI, Sakai City, Osaka Prefecture, Japan.

For more information, please visit Sharp's Web site at <http://sharp-world.com/index.html>

#### **About STMicroelectronics**

STMicroelectronics is a global leader serving customers across the spectrum of electronics applications with innovative semiconductor solutions. ST aims to be the undisputed leader in multimedia convergence and power applications leveraging its vast array of technologies, design expertise and combination of intellectual property portfolio, strategic partnerships and manufacturing strength. In 2009, the Company's net revenues were \$8.51 billion. Further information on ST can be found at [www.st.com](http://www.st.com).

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