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National installs largest private solar PV array system in New Mexico and invites industry professionals to ribbon cutting ceremony

ALBUQUERQUE, New Mexico (June 17, 2010) National Electric has installed one of the largest private solar systems in New Mexico. With over 95,000 square feet of roof space, National believes this project will not only provide energy and cost savings, but it will give others in the community a place to observe a system of this magnitude in operation.

Installation of the solar photovoltaic (PV) system began in November 2009 and took 63 days from inception to completion. The system is designed to produce 250 kilowatts, which will cover about 86% of National's electric demand. The system is comprised of 1,138 220-watt photovoltaic panels which are mounted to the roof at a 20 degree tilt using a Sunlink Solar Racking System. The DC power is converted in to AC power by a 250KWdc Satcon Commercial Solar PV Inverter.

A variety of factors influenced National's decision to take on a project of this size. National wanted to enter the renewable energy market by learning firsthand what is required and what to expect in building a solar PV array system. They also had a strong desire to be environmentally conscious and lower their carbon footprint as a corporation.

"Investing in a solar pv system is a good economic decision for our company," remarked Lyle McDaniels, Executive Vice President. "With the current rebates and incentives available, investing in solar energy is a wise choice offering a good return on invested capital for all companies."

The economics and timing provided a financial opportunity for National's return on investment. They were able to take advantage of the renewable energy tax credits from Federal and State governments, bonus depreciation and the Renewable Energy Credits (REC) purchase program from the Public Service Company of New Mexico (PNM). With the added savings opportunities, National expects to recoup its cost in about six years. After that, PNM will continue to pay National for every kilowatt they generate for another fourteen years.

“National is actively involved in supporting green building and renewable energy technologies. It was important to our company as environmental stewards to reduce our carbon footprint. Based on the performance of our solar pv system, economically we will be able to enjoy reduced power costs in years to come,” added McDaniels.

The US Energy Information Administration issued a press release in December 2009 stating that total primary energy consumption is expected to grow at least 14% between 2008 and 2035. As an effort to curb energy consumption there has been a shift in the energy mix towards developing renewable energy sources. Even with this current trend, the cost of energy is expected to have a dramatic increase over the next three to five years due to legislation and infrastructure upgrades.

“Solar energy is 100% renewable and sustainable. Our commercial solar array system allows us to contribute in a major way as environmental stewards to our community”, commented Rocklan Lawrence, CEO/owner of National Electric. “Our desire is to use our Solar PV array as a training tool for those who are interested in seeing the benefits of a solar system in operation and for those who are interested in learning how to install and operate systems in the expanding solar energy market.”

National recently unveiled its new solar pv system during a renewable and energy efficient product showcase with special guest, Mayor Richard Berry, hosting a special ribbon cutting ceremony. More than 400 industry professionals and community leaders gathered together to tour this facility and discover the new technologies available today.

National Electric places high value on providing training and education to their customers. Its facility was built to offer continuous training and education with the goal of helping its customers succeed in the new markets of renewable energy. National has made a commitment to bring in industry experts to educate, train and provide renewable energy product information. Recently, the company hosted three Solar PV training classes with over 100 participants and was asked to participate in NAED’s Survival of the Leanest and Greenest 2010 Women in Industry Forum by providing a tour of its facility as part of their program.

“Naturally this was a great fit for what we were already offering the electrical industry with our renewable energy products showcase and photovoltaic training seminar to further the promotion and training in renewable energy products. We are pleased to be a resource and training facility for our industry,” commented Lawrence.

The rooftop Solar PV system is regularly monitored and can show the daily electrical power generated from the array at the facility. Access to the roof top is available to further educate customers on how the system is installed and how it integrates with a building.

National Electric partnered with leading contractors and consultants to design and commission its solar PV system. “We were very pleased with the quality, expertise and professionalism on this installation,” said Lawrence. “Our primary designer and contractor Joe Carbine, VP of Nations Roof, Renewable Energy Solutions and financial tax consultant, Steve Heusinger, CEO/Managing Principal of Ryan Tax Credit Services were an integral part of making this project so successful.”

National Electric is an independent distributor of lighting and electrical distribution products for the industrial, commercial, utility and residential market segments. Locally owned and operated in New Mexico, National has two locations in Albuquerque and Santa Fe. It maintains its inventories in over one million cubic feet of warehouse space. National’s corporate headquarters are located at 2200 Midtown Place NE, Albuquerque, NM 87107.

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