

## Press Release

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### **S\$ 2 Million Solar Energy R&D Project in Singapore**

**Leading Norwegian solar company REC invests S\$ 2 million in research contract with the Solar Energy Research Institute of Singapore (SERIS)**

**The new R&D collaboration will further strengthen Singapore's position in solar energy and will pave the way for new markets in Asia**

The Norway-based Renewable Energy Corporation (REC), which is investing NOK 13 billion (S\$ 3.2 billion) in the first phase of its world-class integrated solar manufacturing plant in Singapore, today signed a S\$ 2 million R&D contract with the Solar Energy Research Institute of Singapore (SERIS). SERIS recently established state-of-the-art cleanroom laboratory facilities for silicon photovoltaics at the National University of Singapore campus (NUS). The institute will support the growing solar industry sector in Asia.

SERIS is focused on reducing the cost of solar electricity by increasing efficiency, lowering material consumption, and the optimization of manufacturing in solar cell technology.

**Quote from EDB:**

“The government established SERIS to be a leading applied solar energy research institute which will catalyse the growth of the solar industry in Singapore. We are therefore pleased that SERIS will be undertaking this research collaboration in support of REC's manufacturing operations here. Such collaborations between industry and our publicly funded research institutes contribute to the development of Singapore as an innovation-driven economy,” said Dr Beh Swan Gin, Managing Director of the Economic Development Board of Singapore (EDB ).

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In the 2-year R&D contract, REC aims to further enhance the efficiency of its silicon wafer solar cells with future-oriented processing technology and techniques together with the scientific support of SERIS. As a result of the technical innovations planned in this R&D project, REC also expects to achieve significant production cost reductions, which will help bring down solar module prices and speed up the development of solar markets in Asia and elsewhere.

### **Quote from REC:**

“The high attractiveness of our new manufacturing complex in Singapore stems from its unique and extensive level of vertical integration of the different production and processing steps involved. Singapore has proven itself by being able to successfully establish a unique network between industry and R&D structures with its highly supportive and professional government administration,” stated Ole ENGER, CEO of REC.

SERIS is currently building up a comprehensive, technology-driven knowledge base with state-of-the-art facilities, equipment and tools. These laboratories and tools open up new opportunities for industry players to conduct leading-edge R&D in Asia. This is especially important in a rapidly growing and highly innovative field like solar energy where fast and dynamic technology development is necessary to maintain competitiveness by creating new and unique selling propositions. The R&D project with REC serves as a significant first example that is well-aligned with SERIS’ strategy.

### **Quote from SERIS:**

“Today, the new R&D collaboration with REC marks the beginning of our planned close R&D partnership with industry. We are pleased to support REC in its efforts to build up a modern and highly competitive manufacturing plant that will set an example for future innovative production technologies,” summarized Prof. Joachim LUTHER, CEO of SERIS.

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Attachment:

*High resolution photo.*

Text for the caption:

Prof. Joachim LUTHER, CEO of SERIS, and Rob STEEMAN, Vice-President, Technology, REC Cells Pte. Ltd. during the signing ceremony for the S\$ 2 million R&D contract between SERIS and REC.

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