



Canadian Solar Industries Association
L'Association des Industries Solaires du Canada

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Ottawa, ON – January 19, 2007: Prime Minister Stephen Harper, accompanied by Natural Resources Minister Gary Lunn and Environment Minister John Baird, has released the details today of their long awaited new solar program, which is being referred to as the “Eco Energy Renewable Heat Initiative”. The program will replace the Renewable Energy Deployment Initiative (REDI) which was in existence for 8 years and originally slated to end March 31st 2007. Like its predecessor, the new program will pay 25% of the capital costs to companies and organizations installing solar thermal technology (water and air heating). With increased funding over a four year period, the program is being heralded as a key policy initiative in the Conservative government’s quest to promote energy diversification and increase access to clean energy technologies.

The Canadian Solar Industries Association (CanSIA) expressed their support for the program and for the government’s commitment to developing strong environmental policy.

CanSIA’s President, Andrew van Doorn, states “This is a substantial step in the right direction for the Conservative government. The four year funding commitment for solar thermal technology ensures that the solar industry will continue to expand production and that the widespread uptake of solar technology will continue to grow.”

CanSIA also affirmed their support to continue providing assistance to the government in terms of designing additional programs to promote solar thermal and solar PV use in Canada. The organization advocates creating similar programs for PV.

“Solar is an indispensable component of the energy mix in Canada, and designing programs that assist in the commercialization of renewable technologies is good environmental policy, and it is good economic policy. It is about expanding the use of our world class Canadian solar technology, and helping Canadians to employ Canadians in a cutting edge industry”, says van Doorn.

CanSIA will soon be posting details of the new program on its website at www.cansia.ca.

About CanSIA

The Canadian Solar Industries Association's mission is to develop a strong, efficient, ethical and professional Canadian solar industry, able to service an expanding domestic energy market, to provide innovative solar solutions to world energy problems, and to play a major role in promoting the transition to a solar energy future worldwide.

www.cansia.ca