



Contact
Singapore 



Singapore's vision for this industry

Singapore has identified the clean energy industry as a new key growth area, with an emphasis on solar energy. To this end, the Singapore government announced a total package totaling S\$350 million, with the aim to intensify innovative research and development, and capability development for this industry. Singapore's clean energy industry comprises several sectors, including wind, fuel cells, carbon services, and solar energy. Singapore Economic Development Board (EDB) expects the industry to contribute S\$1.7 billion to the GDP and create 7,000 jobs by 2015.

Singapore has competitive advantages in these areas:

a. Existing Strengths in Electronics, Precision Engineering and Chemicals Industries

The manufacturing of solar wafers, cells and modules is similar to the semiconductor and other high-end electronics manufacturing processes. Today, Singapore is already a major semiconductor hub and also has all-round capabilities from the precision engineering and chemicals industries which can be applied to the solar industry.



b. Strategic Location in the Asian Sunbelt

Singapore is located on the sunbelt which gets about 50% more radiation than the temperate regions such as Germany and Japan which are major hubs for solar technology today. When the price of solar drops to parity with conventional electricity, the sunbelt region will be one of the first solar markets to experience strong growth. Our excellent supply chain capabilities and extensive linkages to the region make us an efficient base for companies to provide system integration to the Asian sunbelt. In addition, there are about 1 billion people in the region without access to grid electricity. Singapore-based companies can develop potential clean energy solutions tailored to this huge under-served market.

As a sophisticated, modern industrial economy, Singapore has a reputation for excellence in the whole value chain of activities – research and technology development, test-bedding, complex manufacturing, supply chain management and headquarter functions.

Who are the leading players here?

For a nascent industry, Singapore has already attracted a number of leading players in the clean energy industry with substantial presence here – Renewable Energy Corporation, Solar-Fabrik, NorSun and SolarWorld have chosen to invest in Singapore.

Renewable Energy Corporation (REC)

REC is establishing the world's largest integrated solar manufacturing complex in Singapore, at a potential investment value of S\$6.3 billion. REC plans to

incorporate wafer, cell and module production facilities and has the potential to reach 1.5 gigawatts in production capacity, roughly three-quarters of the total global output in 2006.

SolarWorld Group

The SolarWorld Group, one of the largest solar companies globally, has established SolarWorld Asia-Pacific in Singapore to extend the company's reach into Asia. SolarWorld Asia Pacific will provide strategic business planning, general management, technical support and sales and marketing for the entire Asia-Pacific region.

Norsun

Norsun is setting up a solar wafer manufacturing factory here. The first of its kind in Singapore, this S\$416 million world-scale facility will produce monocrystalline silicon wafers, which are used in the production of high-end solar cells. Norsun's facility in Singapore will be its largest production centre in the world with a capacity of 350MW.

Solar-Fabrik

Solar-Fabrik has partnered Solar Energy Power, a local solar cell manufacturing plant, to produce ultra-thin wafer-based solar cells. The company's Asia-Pacific headquarters is also located in Singapore.



Conergy

Conergy is among the largest solar companies in Europe and a leading international solution provider in other fast-growing fields of renewable energies. Conergy has chosen Singapore as the location for its strategic nerve centre to grow its business in the Asia-Pacific, moving its regional headquarters here.

Vestas Wind Systems

Vestas is the world's largest supplier of wind power systems and a driving force behind the development of the world wind power industry. Vestas chose Singapore as the base for its R&D centre which will employ some research scientists and engineers, as well as its Asia-Pacific headquarters.

Solar equipment suppliers and supporting companies such as Oerlikon Solar have also set up operations here. Oerlikon is a world leading supplier of equipment for making solar cells. Singapore is the company's Asian hub for manufacturing and R&D. This project is not only a first-of-its-kind for Singapore, but it will also be Oerlikon's first facility in Asia that will develop, assemble and test its advanced solar cell equipment. The facility includes a pilot line which will be Oerlikon's largest in the world, and will incorporate its latest technology.

SERIS, or the Solar Energy Research Institute of Singapore, was launched at the National University of Singapore. It is led by Professor Joachim Luther, the former Director of the world-renowned Fraunhofer Institute of Solar Energy Systems, and this new institute will conduct world-class R&D and train specialist manpower for the solar energy sector.

Where do you fit into the picture?

Singapore has attracted world-scale investments which will provide a powerful kick-start to our efforts to develop the clean energy industry. These investments affirm that Singapore is well-positioned to develop clean energy technology and deliver solutions to the regional and global market. As Singapore continues to nurture this exciting industry, we will need talented research scientists and engineers who are keen to grow with us.

To build up local research capability and groom research leaders in key clean energy areas, the Singapore government is providing PhD scholarships to those interested in furthering their expertise and knowledge in this industry. More information about the scholarships is available on the Clean Energy Programme Office (CEPO)'s website at www.cepo.sg

There is no better time to be in Singapore than now – the city-state is growing economically, with a constant bustle of activity. Situated at the heart of the world's fastest growing economies, the city is a bridge between the East and West, burgeoning with diversity and opportunities. Couple these factors with the city's superb physical infrastructure, sophisticated IT network, great variety of living, dining and entertainment options, and you have one of the most livable cities around.





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