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13.78-Megawatt SunPower Solar Power Plant at NAWS China Lake Begins Operations, Expected To Reduce Costs by \$13 Million

Project Financed Through First 20-Year Federal Government Solar Power Purchase Agreement - A Replicable Model for Delivering Savings to Federal Agencies

SAN JOSE, Calif., Oct. 19, 2012 /PRNewswire/ -- In a dedication ceremony today attended by Acting Assistant Secretary of the Navy Roger Natsuhara, SunPower Corp. (NASDAQ: SPWR) announced the completion of the largest solar system in the US Navy, a 13.78-megawatt (DC) solar photovoltaic (PV) power system at Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake (NAWS China Lake) in Calif. Using SunPower's high-efficiency, Buy American-compliant solar panels, the plant is generating the equivalent of more than 30 percent of China Lake's annual energy load, helping to reduce costs by an estimated \$13 million over the next 20 years.

Using a long-term energy procurement authority (US Code Section 2922A), the power plant is the first federal agency project to be financed through a 20-year term solar power purchase agreement (PPA). The 20-year PPA requires no upfront capital or maintenance obligations from the Navy, matches conventional project financing terms for solar power facilities, and allows the Navy to secure electricity at up to 30 percent below the rate available through shorter duration 10-year PPAs.

"SunPower congratulates the Navy for its forward-thinking commitment to solar as a reliable resource that strengthens this country's energy independence and security. This 20-year PPA will significantly lower long-term electricity costs at China Lake, and can be used as a template for additional large-scale federal solar projects," said Howard Wenger, president, regions, of SunPower. "With 52 megawatts installed, SunPower has more than a decade of experience working with the federal government. We are pleased to be the leading solar provider to the U.S. government, delivering cost-effective solar solutions that generate the highest value returns over the long term."

An affiliate of MetLife, Inc. purchased the system that SunPower designed, built and is operating and maintaining. NAWS China Lake is hosting the system, and buying electricity at prices currently below the retail utility rate, which provides the Navy with a long-term hedge against rising power prices and required no initial capital investment.

At the China Lake site, SunPower installed its SunPower Oasis™ Power Plant product, a fully integrated, modular solar power block that is engineered to rapidly and cost-effectively deploy utility-scale solar projects while optimizing land use. Each power block integrates the SunPower® T0 Tracker with SunPower's high-efficiency solar panels, pre-manufactured system cabling, the Oasis smart inverter and the Oasis operating system.

SunPower has installed more than 50 megawatts of solar power systems at government facilities to date. The systems the company has delivered to the U.S. Navy and U.S. Air Force alone generate the equivalent amount of electricity for about 9,000 homes. According to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency estimates, the Navy and Air Force systems will reduce the amount of carbon dioxide emitted into the atmosphere by almost 732,000 tons over the next 20 years, which is equal to avoiding the emissions from burning 1.5 million barrels of oil.

About SunPower

SunPower Corp. (NASDAQ: SPWR) designs, manufactures and delivers the highest efficiency, highest reliability solar panels and systems available today. Residential, business, government and utility customers rely on the company's quarter century of experience and guaranteed performance to provide maximum return on investment throughout the life of the solar system. Headquartered in San Jose, Calif., SunPower has offices in North America, Europe, Australia, Africa and Asia. For more information, visit www.sunpowercorp.com.

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