



October 30, 2017

SunPower is First to Receive Automated Access for Drone Flights in U.S. FAA Controlled Airspace

LAANC Approval Allows SunPower Unique, Expanded Access to Drone Survey Potential Solar Plant Sites

SAN JOSE, Calif., Oct. 30, 2017 /PRNewswire/ -- SunPower Corp. (NASDAQ:SPWR) announced today that it is the first company to receive approval from the U.S. Federal Aviation Agency (FAA) for automatic access to operate a drone in regulated airspace over controlled airports.



The new access category, called Low Altitude Authorization Capability (LAANC), was released this month in a beta test at four airports including San Jose (SJC), Cincinnati International Airport (CVG), Reno (RNO), and Lincoln (LNK). SunPower received LAANC authorization through Skyward, an FAA-approved vendor.

"Leading through innovation, SunPower is proud to be the first company granted the new LAANC access, enabling us to aerially evaluate a broader range of potential project sites for our customers more quickly and comprehensively," said SunPower CEO and President Tom Werner. "As part of the SunPower Oasis Power Plant platform, drone flights enable us to efficiently generate solar power plant system layouts to optimize site use and reduce project cost."

SunPower uses drones as part of the SunPower® Oasis® Power Plant platform to survey potential solar power plant sites for customers. Information and images gathered by the drones is used to quickly develop solar plant layouts to optimize site use and achieve customers' project goals.

"Digital, automated, free access to controlled airspace, in the form of LAANC, is one of the greatest moment we've experienced in the U.S. commercial drone industry so far," said Skyward Co-President Jonathan Evans. "I'm excited for SunPower and the company's customers, who will get to benefit from LAANC right away."

About SunPower

As one of the world's most innovative and sustainable energy companies, SunPower Corporation (NASDAQ:SPWR) provides a diverse group of customers with complete solar solutions and services. Residential customers, businesses, governments, schools and utilities around the globe rely on SunPower's more than 30 years of proven experience. From the first flip of the switch, SunPower delivers maximum value and superb performance throughout the long life of every solar system. Headquartered in Silicon Valley, SunPower has dedicated, customer-focused employees in Africa, Asia, Australia, Europe, North and South America. For more information about how SunPower is changing the way our world is powered, visit www.sunpower.com.

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