

US\$12 million funding for early-stage solar energy

US Department of Energy Secretary Steven Chu has announced that the government's National Renewable Energy Laboratory will invest up to US\$12 million in funding for four companies to support the development of early-stage solar energy technologies and help them advance to full commercial scale. The goal of the initiative is to help further expand a clean energy economy and make solar energy more cost-competitive with conventional forms of electricity. "Expanding the solar power industry in the US can create new jobs, reduce carbon pollution and save consumers money," says Chu. "By partnering with NREL, these companies will be able to gain from their expertise, accelerate the pace of innovation and help get technologies to market faster." Companies awarded under DOE's Photovoltaic Incubator Program will work with NREL to transition prototype and pre-commercial PV technologies into pilot and full-scale manufacturing. The anticipated subcontracts, up to US\$3 million each, will be awarded as 18-month phased subcontracts with payment made upon completion of project milestones.

Source: esaa news Issue 3 (25 January, 2010)