

For Immediate Release

Press Release

The Top 5 Turnkey PV Manufacturing Line Suppliers for 2008

Bedford, England – June 4, 2009: VLSI Research Inc today announced the ranking of the top 5 turnkey line suppliers to the PV manufacturing industry for 2008.

| Top 5 Turnkey PV Manufacturing Line Suppliers for 2008 | | | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Company | Revenues (\$M)[†] | | Rank | |
| | 2007 | 2008 | 2007 | 2008 |
| Oerlikon Solar | 250 | 664 | 1 | 1 |
| Centrotherm GmbH | 66 | 174 | 3 | 2 |
| Roth & Rau AG | 78 | 162 | 2 | 3 |
| Applied Materials | 0 | 106 | - | 4 |
| Schmid Gruppe GmbH | 37 | 96 | 4 | 5 |

Source: VLSI Research Inc
The Database on PV Manufacturing Equipment

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In this rapidly evolving market, Oerlikon Solar led the field by a significant margin for the second year in a row. VLSI Research analyst, Andrew Thomas, commented “Oerlikon was first to market with a large scale turnkey solution for silicon thin film on glass technology and they definitely benefitted in 2008 from the first mover advantage.” Despite the current challenging market situation Oerlikon continues to announce new contracts and is expected to profit further as existing customers seek to upgrade to Oerlikon’s tandem junction technology and to expand manufacturing capacity in the future.

Centrotherm moved up one position into second place this year helped by the acquisition of GP Solar. This allowed the company to build up a formidable product range and provide turnkey solutions for both module and cell lines. Roth & Rau, with their silicon wafer based cell manufacturing lines, were close behind in third spot. Applied Materials was a new entrant for 2008 with its SunFab silicon thin film on glass line and Schmid Gruppe rounded out the top 5 with sales of its turnkey cell and module lines.

The turnkey PV manufacturing line suppliers provide complete integrated line of production equipment needed for the manufacture of photovoltaic cells and modules. They may source all or part of the toolset from third parties but they are ultimately responsible for the turnkey manufacturing line. It has also

become increasingly common for turnkey suppliers to provide a standard process and guarantee line output. Turnkey solutions are a particularly attractive way for companies with little or no experience in the PV industry to enter the market, and the relative ease of financing before 2009 has fuelled rapid growth in this sector.

About VLSI Research Inc

VLSI Research Inc is the leading provider of market research and economic analysis on the technical, business, and economic aspects within nanotechnology and related industries. The company is known for its unparalleled accuracy, innovation in market research, and its sharply focused insight into the rapidly changing landscape of the industries covered. Its databases on manufacturing are used throughout the industry, and by government. VLSI Research's primary databases and reports cover the semiconductor, flat panel display, PV cell and module manufacturing industries, and the market for critical subsystems and components within these and associated high technology industries. VLSI Research was founded in 1976.

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† Turnkey PV manufacturing lines usually have long customer acceptance times. This means that during periods of rapid growth, as was case in 2008, the value of revenues recognized is much lower than the value of turnkey lines shipped. The revenues and rankings in the top 5 list are based on revenues recognized.

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