



Roswell Daily Record

— The Voice of the Pecos Valley **Online**

Monday, February 09, 2009

Solar company coming to Roswell

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Engineers perform research and development tests on solar film using a sputtering machine at Berken Solar on Monday. ([Daily Record/Andrew Cone](#))

The company is currently in the research and development phase, and is awaiting delivery on another large piece of equipment from France.

"We're still in the stages of getting our prototype certified by other laboratories, but we should be at full capacity within six months," said Ken Newman, director of business development. "Thin-film is cost effective so we can ramp up faster, we can sell it less expensively and we can produce more of it at a fraction of the cost."

Newman said the company sells the thin-film solar cells to its customers, who in turn, market the energy to individual homeowners. He said that those customers are willing to pay a little more money because it's renewable energy.

According to Newman, the company currently has six full-time employees. If everything goes well, he added, the company will have between 30 and 50 employees by the end of the year.

Channon said that the company chose Roswell because it's very conducive to solar technology.

"There's a lot of sun and a very pro-green state government here," Channon said. "We've also had a lot of support from the community."

Newman said the proximity of Eastern New Mexico University-Roswell also made the city a natural choice.

"We talked to the professors and they're all very supportive and want to work with us to get us the right type of

people and help us train and educate," Newman said.

"There are a lot of people that are jumping on this bandwagon, but we have a lot of unique technologies. I'd say we're probably the leanest and hungriest thin-film operator out there." Channon said. "There are firms out there with nine-figure capitalizations, and they haven't gotten to the point that we're at with something far more modest."

Andrew Millward, director of process engineering, said he believes this technology will be successful regardless of oil prices.

"I think the people of the world and the United States are more excited about renewable and alternative energy than they are about digging things out of the earth and hoping that we never run out of that," Millward said.

Millward said he's so excited about the new technology that it's caused him to lose sleep.

"I lie awake at night sometimes thinking about the potential uses of this technology," he said. "It's incredible."

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