

Thursday, August 7, 2008

ODOT turns to sun to light I-5/I-205 interchange

Portland Business Journal

Gov. Ted Kulongoski on Thursday announced the start of the nation's first so-called "solar highway" -- a project to install solar panels at the junction of I-5 and I-205 in Tualatin.

The project is the first step in an effort by the **Oregon Department of Transportation** to generate renewable energy from its facilities and rights of way.

The first of 594 panels were installed during an event Thursday morning. The 104-kilowatt solar photovoltaic system -- covering the length of two football fields -- will produce about 112,000 kilowatt hours a year, or 28 percent of the 400,000 kilowatt hours used to light the interchange.

The \$1.3 million project is expected to be completed and online in December 2008.

The solar panels for the project come from the **SolarWorld** AG plant in Hillsboro, while the inverter came from Bend-based **PV Powered Inc.**

The electricity generated from the panels during the day will supply power to the **Portland General Electric Co.** grid. The electric utility will then return an equivalent amount of power back to the system at night to light the interchange.

The project will be designed, constructed and installed by SolarWay, a solar energy consortium of four Oregon firms: **Aadland Evans Constructors, Inc.**, of Portland as the general contractor; **Moyano Leadership Group, Inc.**, of Salem as the project manager and design leader; **Advanced Energy Systems** of Eugene as the solar power specialty designer and installer, and **Good Company of Eugene** as the community and sustainability specialist.

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