



PRESS RELEASE

## **SOLAR ENERGY SHOULD PLAY INTEGRAL ROLE IN POWER AFRICA INITIATIVE**

***Johannesburg, 17 July 2013: Following US President Barack Obama's recent visit to South Africa and the announcement of Power Africa - an initiative aimed at enhancing access to electricity across Africa - significant investments have already been committed to the project by the US Government, as well as the private sector, with the aim to develop clean geothermal, hydro, wind and solar energy on the continent.***

According to Arthur Chien, CEO of Talesun Energy, a leading supplier of solar energy, due to the vast amount of natural resources available in Africa, photovoltaic solar power can play a significant role in aiding Power Africa reach its goals, and should be seriously considered by investors.

"It is estimated that only 42% of Africa's population have access to electricity, which is in comparison to 75% in the developed world. The African Development Bank recently reported that in Sub-Saharan Africa access is even scarcer, with only 30% of the population having electricity access."

Chien says that President Obama's pledge of \$7 billion from the U.S. government over the next five years to increase electricity supply in Africa is therefore a significant milestone, as it aims to double the access to electricity on the continent.

He adds that according to the World Bank, around 30 countries in Africa frequently experience outages and load shedding. "During the next five years the project aims to add more than 10 000 megawatts of cleaner, more efficient electricity for at least 20 million new households and commercial entities."

Chien explains that electricity is not only necessary for the development of the continent. "It is also necessary from health perspective, as indoor air pollution from wood stoves used in developing nations kill 3.5 million people per year."

He says that it was recently reported by The International Energy Agency (IEA) that Sub-Saharan Africa needs \$300 billion in investments to achieve universal access to electricity by 2030. "Investors should be placing more of a focus on solar sources, which could play a significant role in this project."



The IEA has also established that renewable power could be the most cost-effective option for expanding energy access.”

He adds that solar photovoltaic power can also assist greatly in stabilizing the sometimes unstable electricity grid in South Africa. “In South Africa especially, a country which often experiences blackouts due to load shedding, solar power can assist greatly in ensuring that the electricity supply is stable.”

Chien says that the relatively hot climate in South Africa provides an ideal opportunity for businesses, as well as consumers, to make use of this energy source. “In terms of the high prices that consumers and businesses pay for electricity, in both South Africa and Africa, photovoltaic methods offer the opportunity to gain power in a decentralised method, which is a more independent and cost effective solution in the long run.

“A further look to more developed photovoltaic markets such as Germany, Italy and Spain, shows that access to solar power can effectively lead to lower power prices,” concludes Chien.

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#### **About Talesun Energy**

Talesun Energy, a subsidiary of global solar solutions company Zhongli Talesun Solar, consistently produces industry-leading quality, crystalline photovoltaic modules manufactured in one of the world's largest, fully automated production facility (2,260,000 square feet or the size of forty football fields). This systematic production process provides Talesun customers with front-runner price-performance ratios. Supporting its partners in the solar value chain, Talesun Energy also offers project development services, engineering support and financing. As an advancing solar leader, Talesun is dedicated to delivering exceptional sales support and customer service in Europe, the United States, Africa, South America, Japan, Australia and China. Zhongli Talesun Solar is a subsidiary of Zhongli Sci-Tech Group Co., Ltd., an international market leader in special cables, optical fiber cables and photovoltaic product manufacturing. For more information please visit [www.talesunenergy.com](http://www.talesunenergy.com)

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