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**SPEECH BY MR. TAN CHOON SHIAN, DEPUTY MANAGING
DIRECTOR OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BOARD, AT
THE INAUGURATION CEREMONY FOR VDE-ISE'S NEW SOLAR
MODULE TESTING AND CERTIFICATION LABORATORIES ON 18
JANUARY 2010, 11.00 AM**

Your Excellency Jörg Ranau,
Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany

Mr Wilfried Jaeger,
Managing Director, VDE Institute

Dr. Hans-Martin Henning,
Deputy Managing Director, Fraunhofer ISE

Professor Joachim Luther,
CEO, Solar Energy Research Institute of Singapore (SERIS)

Distinguished Guests
Ladies and gentlemen

1. Good morning. It gives me great pleasure to join you today for the official opening of the new photovoltaic testing and certification laboratories for VDE-ISE, a joint venture between VDE Institute and

Fraunhofer Institute for Solar Energy Systems (ISE), in partnership with the Solar Energy Research Institute of Singapore (SERIS).

FIRST SOLAR TESTING & CERTIFICATION LAB IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

2. VDE-ISE is the first Southeast Asian hub for solar module testing and certification, and this marks another milestone for the solar industry in Singapore. The new entity will bring together the expertise of both VDE, a major testing and certification institution from Germany, and Fraunhofer ISE, the world's leading research institute in solar energy. Together with SERIS, VDE-ISE will provide a comprehensive range of testing and certification services for solar photovoltaic modules.

3. Today, Asia hosts more than half of the world's manufacturing capacity for solar modules. This in turn creates huge opportunities for testing and certification labs, as Asia-based solar manufacturers seek to certify their products in a timely and cost efficient manner, and in line with international market standards. Given Singapore's strategic location at the heart of Asia's growth, this new VDE-ISE lab is well-positioned to meet the increasingly sophisticated needs of the industry in the region.

SINGAPORE: LEADING GLOBAL CLEAN ENERGY HUB

4. VDE-ISE's decision to locate its lab in Singapore is in line with our goal to position Singapore as a global Clean Energy hub where innovative Clean Energy products and services are developed, tested and exported for global markets. Since the Clean Energy industry was identified as a key economic growth area in 2007, we have implemented a comprehensive blueprint to grow a vibrant ecosystem in Singapore that leverages technology as a growth driver.

5. We are therefore pleased that VDE-ISE is partnering with SERIS in Singapore as this reinforces SERIS' position as Singapore's vanguard for industry-oriented solar energy research. SERIS recently started up its research facility and also achieved early successes in terms of research collaborations with the private sector. For instance, it has signed an S\$2 million R&D contract with leading Norwegian solar company REC last month to enhance the efficiency of its silicon wafer solar cells. Extending from R&D, we are also using Singapore as a living laboratory to testbed, demonstrate and commercialise new Clean Energy technologies. A good example is the recently launched Zero-Energy Building by the Building & Construction Authority (BCA), which is powered entirely by solar energy.

NEW OPPORTUNITIES IN TESTING AND CERTIFICATION

6. Today, most solar modules are tested under standard climatic conditions. But such conditions are far from the hot and humid climate in the tropical sunbelt where Singapore is. This means that

modules that are suited for the temperate region may perform sub-optimally in the tropics. Standards for solar systems and Building-Integrated PV are also lacking. In line with Singapore's aspirations to develop new innovations in Clean Energy, we welcome partners, like VDE-ISE and SERIS, to take advantage of the existing ecosystem in Singapore to develop new standards and testing capabilities.

CONCLUSION

7. In conclusion, I would like to congratulate VDE-ISE and SERIS on the inauguration of your solar testing and certification laboratory. I wish you every success in this exciting and important endeavour.

8. Thank you.

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