

SUSTAINABILITY

Solar Power comes to North Portland

Last week on May 13th, Portland Mayor Sam Adams and Portland Development Commission Chair Scott Andrews announced a plan for development of a solar panel manufacturing headquarter in North Portland that could bring over 480 new jobs to the Portland area.

"I congratulate SoloPower on their decision to site their new manufacturing headquarters and production facility in North Portland," said Representative Tina Kotek. "I welcome them to the neighborhood."

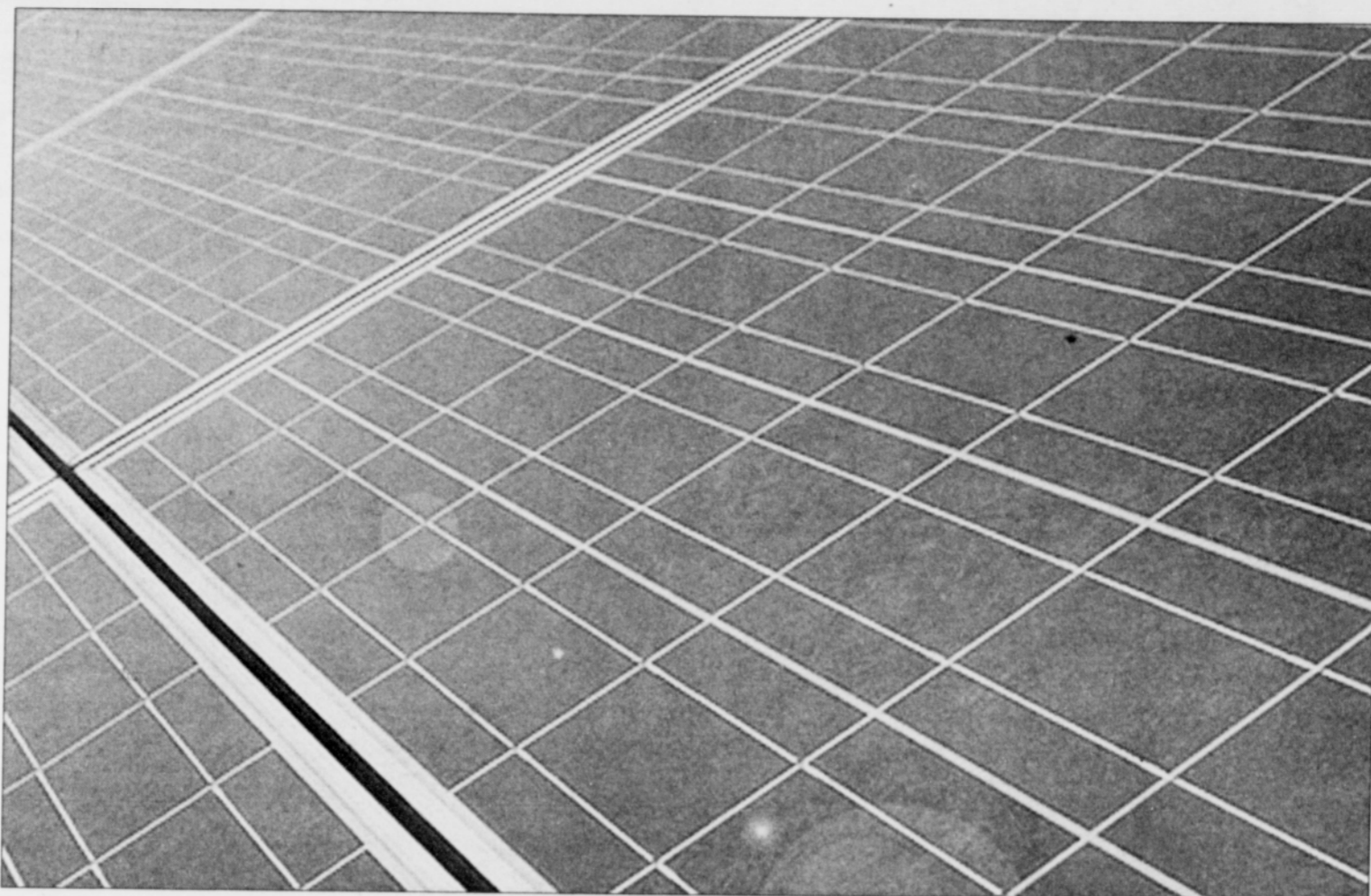
San Jose-based SoloPower produces high powered and low cost solar cell devices, which offer a viable alternative to the electricity produced using traditional fossil fuels. SoloPower's thin-film panels weigh far less than traditional glass covered solar panels, and can be installed directly on a roof.

"SoloPower's announcement is great news for Oregon's economy and clean energy future," Congressman Earl Blumenauer said. "I am proud that the new facility will be manufacturing clean energy technology right here in Portland and look forward building a strong federal partnership to the company and its employees."

Clean Technology is one of the targeted clusters in Portland's 2009 Economic Development Strategy, explained Mayor Adams, who is excited about the new green job opportunities that could come with this new development.

The planned SoloPower manufacturing facility represents a \$340 million investment at full build-out, and the company expects to hire more than 150 workers in the next twelve months, and at full build-out. An estimated 913 construction, indirect, and induced jobs are also expected to be created by the development of this manufacturing facility.

"The positions created by SoloPower at the North Portland facility will be permanent jobs requiring skilled labor, and offering high wages and benefits," said Representative Tina Kotek. "This is what we mean



when we talk about job creation and economic growth."

In addition to well-paying jobs, the City and SoloPower are finalizing a Community Benefits Agreement that includes workforce training, Enterprise Zone Community Contributions and other benefits.

The company also plans to work with Portland-based Worksystems, Inc. to train local residents to work in the SoloPower facility.

After SoloPower and the City of Portland signed a non-binding memorandum of understanding last week, Portland City Council will vote on the City of Portland deal package Wednesday, May 18th.

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