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Company Press Release

SOURCE: GPU, Inc.

GPU Solar Powers SolarScapes at New Jersey's Liberty Science Center

JERSEY CITY, N.J., July 6 /PRNewswire/ -- A unique mix of science and art in the form of giant solar-powered fireflies is demonstrating the magical transformation of sunlight to electricity at the Liberty Science Center. The large-scale artwork is powered by solar electric equipment donated by GPU Solar and partially funded by the U.S. Department of Energy.

At a reception at the science center on June 29, the fireflies exhibit was recognized as one of two exhibits selected as a winner of the national solar art competition called SolarScapes. Both exhibits are powered by solar panels manufactured by AstroPower Inc. (Nasdaq: APWR - news; <http://www.astropower.com>); the largest publicly traded solar electric company in the U.S., and a joint venture partner with GPU, Inc. (NYSE: GPU - news) in GPU Solar (<http://www.gpusolar.com>).

The eight seven-foot-long balsa wood fireflies are suspended from the ceiling of the science center's 150-foot tower. At dusk, the fireflies come to life, powered by a 6kW grid-connected solar electric system. The system consists of 40 solar panels and a bank of batteries that are used for energy storage.

The advanced technology of the solar cells transforms sunlight into electricity with no moving parts or pollution, GPU Solar's power system is located on one of the science center's flat roofs and faces the southern sky. Each panel in the power plant measures three-feet by four-feet and the entire power unit covers a 1000 square foot area.

``The magic of fireflies in a field at dusk is similar to the magic of the photovoltaic conversion of sunlight to electricity," said James Torpey, president of GPU Solar. ``We believe this demonstration using renewable energy is a beacon signaling that our nation has the expertise,

technology, and commercially available equipment to tap renewable energy sources to meet our energy needs."

Torpey said GPU Solar's Liberty Science Center system is a harbinger of the present opportunities brought to the State of New Jersey by the opening of the state's electricity markets. New Jersey electricity customers can now choose the source of their electricity. Residents have the ability to encourage the move from reliance on fossil and nuclear generation by choosing to purchase their power from "green power" providers now selling electricity in New Jersey.

GPU Solar is currently developing projects in New Jersey similar to the Solar 2000 project it constructed last year in Northern California. Solar 2000 has been generating power from the sun since last October. The projects in New Jersey will provide new local renewable energy supplies for customer choice.

GPU, Inc. (NYSE: GPU - news), headquartered in Morristown, NJ, is a registered public utility holding company providing utility and utility-related services to customers throughout the world. GPU serves 4.6 million customers directly through its electric companies -- GPU Energy in the US, Midlands Electricity plc in the UK, and Emersa in Argentina. It serves another 1.4 million customers indirectly through its gas transmission subsidiary, GasNet, in Australia. The company's independent power project business units own interests in and operate 14 projects in 7 countries. GPU's 1999 revenues were \$4.8 billion and its total assets were \$21.7 billion. GPU's other subsidiaries include GPU Advanced Resources, Inc., GPU International, Inc., GPU Nuclear, Inc., GPU Service, Inc. and GPU Telcom Services, Inc. (<http://www.gpu.com>).

Liberty Science Center

Liberty Science Center -- just minutes from Manhattan in Liberty State Park, Jersey City, NJ -- is a major public institution devoted to lifelong, interactive education about science and technology. The Center is home to more than 250 hands-on exhibits on three theme-specific floors: Invention, Health, and Environment. Liberty Science Center hosts numerous science-related activities and demonstrations, as well as the nation's largest IMAX dome. Since LSC opened in 1993, more than five million guests have come to Liberty Science Center, making it one of the region's most visited family attractions. For reservations or for information about LSC, visit their website at <http://www.lsc.org>.

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