



New Report Encouraging for Solar Industry

According to a new report, high-tech photovoltaic (PV) materials will revolutionize the solar industry. The new report from Technical Insights, titled "Photovoltaic Materials: Analysis of Energy Technology Markets," identifies, evaluates, and forecasts the future of PV materials.

The report estimates that sales will reach \$2 billion in 2000. By 2005, manufacturing capacity of PV materials will need to double from present levels to keep up with demand and may reach sales of \$12 billion by 2010. While solar electric power is expected to make little strides in the energy market in the beginning of the century, the report indicates that this power source will quickly take off. For example, the National Renewable Energy Laboratory recently reached a record high efficiency rating of 18.8 percent for a thin film solar cell comprised of copper indium gallium diselenide.

The report also points out increasing efficiency with PV cells will help lower production costs. In addition, deregulation of the electric power industry and competition among non-traditional power sources will help lower costs as well.

The report details activities of the companies and organizations including ASE Americas, AstroPower, BP Solarex, Spire, United Solar. Contact: Leo O'Connor, Technical Insights, phone 603-225-5593, website <http://www.wiley.com/technical-insights>.