



For Immediate Release

## SOLAR POWER+ARCHITECTURE AND DESIGN = RECRUITING TOOL FOR DTL

*Integrating Green Building Practices and Materials from the Ground Up Yields LEED Gold Certification, Employee Pride for Highly Valued Engineers and Technicians*

(Roseville, CA) September 14, 2009 – When Solar Development, Inc. presented its bid to provide solar integration services for the new [Digital Technology Labs](#) (DTL) building – which would become Yolo County’s first Gold Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certified private structure – it knew this endeavor would stand out among new construction projects. The photovoltaic (PV) installation would not be retrofit upon completion of the building; the builders specified solar power in the initial design, along with other environmentally friendly practices such as an abundance of natural lighting, onsite waste management and low water use landscaping. For DTL, the benefit is two-fold: lower operating costs and a work environment that appeals to today’s green-minded, environmentally conscious engineering students, graduates and workforce.

Located in Davis, a city widely regarded for its sustainability practices (it was the first city in America to establish bike lanes on its roads), DTL fits in nicely. The environmental and bicycle friendliness of its design serves as a recruiting tool as it competes with the likes of Google, Intel and other Silicon Valley giants equally interested in highly trained and educated engineers and technicians.

“From outside, you can see bicycle racks surrounding the building. However, unless you went inside you wouldn’t see the additional bicycle storage and facilities, such as lockers and showers incorporated into the interior design,” said Bob Parkins, director of engineering at [Solar Development](#). “We had the same challenge with having solar power only on the roof. DTL wanted people to feel good about the building’s energy use and visibly demonstrate its commitment to renewable energy. Working together, we looked at the existing design and budget when DTL suggested splitting up the PV arrays with the majority on the roof, and the rest providing shade for the employees’ and visitors’ cars. It was a great idea. It’s one thing to be told

there's a solar energy system helping to power the lights and computers in their office; it's another thing to actually see it."

[Perkins, Williams & Cotterill](#) provided the architectural services, [Capital Partners Development Co., LLC](#) served as the developer and [Ascent Builders](#) handled the construction. Because the solar equipment was part of the original design, Solar Development was able to coordinate with the entire team to assure appropriate timing and delivery of materials as well as planning and placement for balance of system components (e.g., conduit, wiring, racking, inverters, etc.), and the off-loading of certain project aspects such as having Ascent Builders set the support posts for the shade structures or working with Perkins, Williams & Cotterill regarding placement of HVAC equipment with respect to the location and orientation of the PV panels.

### **About the Building**

Solar Development designed the PV system and worked in conjunction with Capital Partners Development and Perkins, Williams & Cotterill to integrate it into the overall building plans. The 178 kW PV system will help offset approximately 25 percent of DTL's annual energy needs, keeping the billing for its energy use in the utility's lower tiers, especially during the summer months when the system produces at its maximum. The building also boasts 360 degrees of clerestory windows, an open ceiling structure and a central tranquility garden atrium.

Additional features include:

- High efficiency HVAC system with DDC control and 100 percent economizing cycles to maximize use of fresh air
- Power-efficient T-8 light fixtures in most of the building with dimmable ballasts, daylight reduction modes and motion detectors in most rooms
- Extensive insulation and dual-pane, insulated, low-e window systems
- Large amount of recycled and renewable materials used for finishes
- 95 percent recycling of construction waste
- Significant on-site storm water passive filtration
- 52 bike racks (including 30+ inside) and full locker rooms/showers

### **About Solar Development**

Solar Development Inc. built its reputation on quality. It prides itself on designing systems that maximize efficiency and performance. Solar Development guarantees not only the systems it develops and installs, but also the high-quality services it is dedicated to providing its clients. For more information, please go to [www.solardevelop.com](http://www.solardevelop.com).

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