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Photovoltaics: CdTe thin-film modules by Abound Solar among the first to receive UL certification



CdTe PV panel by
Abound Solar

Abound Solar (Loveland, Colorado), a manufacturer of low-cost, thin-film solar photovoltaic (PV) modules, at the end of October 2009 announced that Underwriters Laboratories (UL) had certified the company's "AB1" series of PV modules in accordance with UL standard "1703 Third Edition". Abound Solar reports that the company is the second PV panel manufacturer employing cadmium telluride (CdTe) to pass this rigorous standard. The UL certification requires an extensive set of electrical and mechanical tests of the modules that takes several months. According to the press release, the "UL Witness" program allowed for testing to take place both at Abound Solar's internal compliance laboratory as well as at UL's PV laboratory in San Jose (California).

Thin-film modules pass rigorous electrical and mechanical tests

The modules were reportedly exposed to several rounds of testing including accelerated stress testing under various climate conditions, mechanical impact tests, wind and snow load, fire test, rain, and arcing

among others. "UL certification is an important milestone for Abound Solar modules and for the company itself", said Julian Hawkins, Abound Solar Senior Vice President of Sales and Marketing. "The rigorous testing our products had to undergo in order to receive certification is a testament to the quality and superiority of Abound Solar modules. As we continue to reduce production costs, this certification gets us one step closer to meeting the demands of consumers and accelerating clean energy usage globally." The company reports that its modules are also labeled with the CE mark, and that it is also in the process of testing according to IEC certification through TÜV Rheinland, an independent testing, assessment and certification company.

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