

Things come together for Abound Solar

Thin-film PV solar modules produced by area company

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Everything is coming together for Abound Solar, manufacturer of low-cost thin film PV solar modules that begin in a lab at CSU.

The company's first commercial shipment goes out this week and on Tuesday, the company announced Underwriters Laboratories - the Good Housekeeping seal of approval for manufacturing firms - has given its blessing to the company's products and plant.

The UL certification is a "milestone" for the company, Vice President Russ Kanjorski said in a telephone interview from California, where he was attending Solar Power International 2009, the largest business-to-business solar energy conference and expo in North America.

"It is the standard for quality and safety and certifies the product is acceptable for use."

Underwriters Laboratories put the product through rigorous climate and mechanical impact testing to determine its performance in wind, rain, snow, fire and arcing. It also visited Abound's production facility near Longmont.

"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," Julian Hawkins, senior vice president of sales and marketing, said in a statement.

"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."

Abound, formerly AVA Solar, plans to ramp up its production levels by the end of the year and into next, Kanjorski said.

The company was founded in 2007 to commercialize an advanced process for manufacturing thin-film photovoltaic modules. It was born from 15 years of research and development at Colorado State University.

Abound Solar changed its name in March and in April opened a manufacturing facility in Longmont.

It maintains offices and a research and development lab in Fort Collins.



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Abound Solar administrative assistant Annadean Thorn shares the podium with Interior Secretary Ken Salazar during his visit to Abound on Aug. 4. Abound is located on the east edge of Longmont. (Rich Abrahamson Coloradoan library)