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Governor Martin O'Malley Awards \$2.8 Million towards Clean Energy Business Development and New Job Creation in Maryland

ANNAPOLIS, MD – Governor Martin O'Malley announced today a \$2.8 million investment in the Clean Energy Economic Development Initiative (CEEDI), marking another step forward in Maryland's goal of building a vibrant clean energy sector. Using federal stimulus funds, the Maryland Energy Administration (MEA) is awarding three performance-based grants to businesses that will spur clean energy production and create 32 full-time jobs and 50 construction jobs over the next 18 months.

"The O'Malley Brown Administration is steadfast in its pledge to create *Smart, Green and Growing* opportunities for workers and businesses throughout our state," said Governor O'Malley. "The CEEDI program is yet another demonstration of our responsibility to meeting the needs of our growing clean economy. By partnering with businesses committed to greening our State, we will continue to move towards our strategic goal of generating 20 percent of Maryland's energy from clean, renewable sources by 2022."

The companies receiving second round awards are:

- Advanced Technology and Research Corporation (ATR): ATR of Columbia will use \$1,093,000 to offset labor costs associated with the production of an innovative sun-tracking solar photovoltaic (PV) system at the company's Columbia facility. ATR's tracker systems are designed to boost panel efficiency by as much as 30 percent over fixed installations.
- Strategic Services International (SSI): SSI will use \$1,236,000 to support the development of new manufacturing facilities in Baltimore for an innovative solar photovoltaic (PV) and wind power generator. SSI, a Service Disabled Veteran Owned Business (SDVOB), will produce its "Mobile Solar and Wind Powered Communications Systems" for remote military, disaster-relief, and humanitarian deployments.
- Chesapeake Renewable Energy (CRE): CRE will use \$490,000 to support development and site-planning activities in Somerset County for a five-megawatt solar photovoltaic (PV) array. This renewable energy project will be Maryland's first with significant minority ownership, held by BVFR & Associates, LLC, a Baltimore-based investment banking firm.

"The CEEDI program is designed to create sustainable clean energy jobs in all corners of our State," said MEA Director Malcolm Woolf. "This second round of grants represents MEA's ongoing commitment to clean energy in Maryland."

During today's Capital for a Day at the University of Maryland Baltimore BioPark in Baltimore City, the Governor will be afforded a first-hand look at ATR's mobile solar-panel-tracker unit. The demonstration will follow the Governor's cabinet meeting, which takes place from 12:30 until 2 p.m.

MEA is continuing to work with the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to identify additional CEEDI awardees.

For more information on the CEEDI program, visit:

<http://energy.maryland.gov/CleanEnergyEconomicDevelopmentInitiative.asp>

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