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ATR wins Maryland "Clean Energy" grant for pole-mounted solar tracking device, will soon start manufacturing 1,200 units at Columbia, Maryland facility

February 15, 2011 (Columbia, Md.) -- An innovative, pole-mounted solar tracker will soon start rolling off Advanced Technology & Research Corp.'s production line at its Columbia headquarters. The Solar Pole Tracker incorporates a GPS-based controller to follow the sun across the sky and produce up to 30% more power over the course of a day than fixed panels. The tracker is a key element of "distributed power generation," in which multiple individual panels produce electricity and feed it to the utility grid, producing "green" energy that everyone can use. The tracker system is especially suited for use with structures already tied to the grid, such as utility or light posts in parking lots at malls, business parks, train stations and park-and-rides.

"ATR is proud to introduce this innovative device that will make even greater use of the sun as an energy source and create green jobs right here in Maryland," said Jackson Yang, the company's president and CEO. "And ATR greatly appreciates the state's support in producing the Solar Pole Tracker."

The tracker is being produced with the assistance of a $1.1 million Clean Energy Economic Development Initiative (CEEDI) grant that the Maryland Energy Administration awarded ATR last July. Under this grant, which uses federal stimulus funds, the company is committed to producing 1,200 trackers by March 2012. "MEA was thrilled to have the chance to award this grant to ATR," said MEA Director Malcolm Woolf. "By investing in innovative, renewable energy

technologies like these pole-mounted solar trackers, MEA is working to bring Maryland closer to achieving its goal of generating 20% of its energy from renewable sources by 2022." ATR now is looking for sites to install its trackers and is talking with several government agencies as well as private firms about installing them.

These devices are designed to generate power for 20+ years and should pay for themselves in about five years under the current solar incentive programs and by generating income from renewable energy credits and selling power back to the grid. In addition, these devices incorporate snap-on printed banners that can be installed on either side of the mounting bracket. This high-visibility space can be used to display graphics, promotional messages or paid advertising to generate additional income for the tracker's owner.

Rep. John Sarbanes (D-Md.), who toured ATR headquarters the day the company received its first shipment of components for assembling the trackers, praised the new devices. "It's exciting to see Recovery Act funds going towards innovative renewable energy products right here in Maryland," said Rep. John Sarbanes, whose district includes ATR headquarters. "ATR is helping lay the foundation for creating and keeping as many green manufacturing jobs as possible right here in Maryland and the U.S., which is crucial for our economy and our energy independence." Sarbanes said. Production of the solar trackers and related devices will generate dozens of jobs in Maryland and help spur the growth of the rapidly expanding green sector in the state.

Other renewable energy innovations ATR plans to roll out soon include a more powerful, "do-it-yourself" version for the home owner, and an even larger version that attaches to a wind turbine tower to capture two renewable energy sources at once. ATR also plans to meet the coming electric vehicle invasion head-on with solar-powered car charging stations. The company recently got its first purchase order for such a car-changing station in Bethesda, Md., which it will install this spring.

To see a Solar Pole Tracker in action or tour ATR's production facilities, please contact Alan Cohen at 443 766-1202.

Advanced Technology and Research is a Maryland company manufacturing innovative energy-related and other products for a world market. www.ATRsolartech.com

Attachments: Close-up photo of Solar Pole Tracker
Pre-production shot of Solar Pole Tracker components at ATR
Photo of Gov. Martin O'Malley, ATR President/CEO Jackson Yang and VP Rob Lundahl in front of Solar Tracker mounted on pole