For Immediate Release
April 18, 2010

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Golden's Largest Solar Installation to Cover 650,000 SF of Multi-Tenant Office & Light Industrial Space & Offset 1,500 Tons of CO_2 Annually

MIE Properties Takes First Venture into Solar with $9 Million Project

GOLDEN, Colo…Through the summer, 15 to 20 union electricians will work daily to install photovoltaic systems atop 17 buildings with more than 650,000 square feet of multi-tenant office space in South Golden. When completed, the project will include 8,100 solar panels and will be Golden's largest solar installation and one of the area's only multi-tenant buildings to offer solar power.

The office and light industrial projects, located at MIE Corporate Center, 17260 W. Colfax Ave., and Sixth Avenue Place, 17301 W. Colfax Ave., in Golden, are owned and managed by MIE Properties, Inc. MIE Properties is a full service real estate development firm that owns and manages more than nine million square feet of industrial, office, and retail space nationwide.

This project is an approximate $9 million dollar investment, offset by a rebate from Xcel Energy and a federal grant.

"This is certainly the largest investment MIE has ever made in alternative energy," said Steve Rasmussen, regional partner of MIE Properties. "And we're absolutely thrilled to be taking our first foray into solar power here in Golden."

Golden's Director of Planning & Development Steve Glueck commended MIE, "We are very excited to see MIE Properties embrace alternative energy, especially to this scale. It certainly supports Golden's resolution to encourage more sustainable businesses and we wholeheartedly applaud this effort."

The system is being installed by Howard Electric, a Golden family-run business founded in 1940 by Thomas Howard. Engineering is by LW Engineering LLC (electrical) and Studio 8.18 PC (structural).

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Golden Solar Installation
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MIE is using unique solar panels made of cylindrical modules manufactured in the US by Solyndra. The Solyndra design is particularly well suited for flat roof buildings. Unlike most solar panels that rest at steep angles, the Solyndra system rests at a much lower angle and is not visible from ground level. Additionally, cylindrical tubes in the panels are separated by air space, rather than being comprised of solid glass paneling. The air space between the cylinders allows the system to better withstand wind loads and doesn't necessitate being mechanically attached to the rooftop.

When completed, the system will generate 1,890,000 kilowatt hours per year. This is enough energy to supply electricity to 250 typical Colorado homes for one year and offset 1,500 tons of CO_2 annually.

The systems will be outfitted with inverters from SMA America, the North American subsidiary of SMA Solar Technology, a Germany-based solar company which recently announced plans to open a U.S. manufacturing facility in Denver. These inverters will convert the direct-current electricity collected by the panels into usable power and will track individual usage from each tenant.

Tenants will buy their electricity back from MIE with the revenue being used to offset the company's substantial investment.

"Our tenants are reacting very positively," said Rasmussen. "This will significantly reduce the carbon footprint of not only MIE Properties but all the businesses that operate within these buildings."

The project is expected to be completed by August 2010

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