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**For Immediate Release**

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## Ohio Employees to Receive Training for Advanced Energy Jobs

*Energizing Careers Program Provides \$1.3 Million to Six Ohio Companies, Assisting More Than 700 Employees*

**Columbus, Ohio** - Clean energy technology continues to be a leading industry for Ohio, and training workers to stay on the cutting edge of that technology is vital to the state's economic success. With that goal, the Ohio Department of Development has approved \$1.3 million in Energizing Careers Program grants for six Ohio companies to train more than 700 employees in the advanced energy manufacturing sector.

The Energizing Careers Program, administered by the Department's Workforce and Talent Division, assists companies providing components for the wind, solar, and biomass industries. The program provides customized training for improving workers' skills, helping Ohio companies remain competitive in advanced energy manufacturing.

"These training dollars ensure our workers are highly skilled in manufacturing that supports the evolving technologies that help our economy flourish," said Lisa Patt-McDaniel, Director of the Ohio Department of Development. "By training employees in advanced energy manufacturing, these companies will see continued growth and success in our state."

The \$6 million Energizing Careers Program was launched in June 2010 and was made possible through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act State Energy Sector Partnership and Training grants, funded through the U.S. Department of Labor.

The Program reimburses the cost of training up to \$6,000 for full-time employees, with preferential project funding to companies located in the 44 Ohio counties most affected by the restructuring of the automotive industry.

Companies receiving Energizing Careers Program training dollars in the second round include:

**Calyxo USA Inc.** (Wood County), which will receive \$23,975 for worker training to produce an advanced semiconductor deposition furnace, which coats glass sheets to produce solar panels. Calyxo USA plans to train seven incumbent workers with the Energizing Careers Program training funds.

**The Dow Chemical Company** (Hancock County), which will receive \$162,437 for worker training to manufacture ENLIGHT Polyolefin Encapsulant Films, which can enhance efficiencies in photovoltaic solar panels and lead to lower conversion costs. The films improve the reliability and extend the service life of the solar panels. The Dow Chemical Company is currently retrofitting an existing building at the company's manufacturing site in Findlay to manufacture the ENLIGHT Polyolefin Encapsulant Films. The company plans to train 70 incumbent workers with the Energizing Careers Program training funds.

**Republic Engineered Products, Inc.** (Stark County), which will receive \$200,000 for worker training to manufacture high-quality electric furnace steel components and produce high-quality bottom poured ingots for the wind industry. Since 2006, Republic Engineered Products has invested more than \$12.5 million in its operations and intends to invest an additional \$1 million on new mold sizes to increase product offerings to customers in the wind industry. The company plans to train more than 250 incumbent workers with the Energizing Careers Program training funds.

**Rotek, Inc.** (Portage County), which will receive \$60,000 for worker training to manufacture slewing rings that are utilized in wind turbines and large solar installations. Rotek has recently expanded its Aurora plant, investing more than \$80 million in building and manufacturing equipment. The company plans to train 50 incumbent workers with the Energizing Careers Program training funds.

**Webcore Ip, Inc.** (Montgomery County), which will receive \$106,996 for worker training to manufacture TYCOR composite core materials used in the production of utility-scale wind turbines. Webcore was recently awarded a \$1.8 million contract as part of the U.S. Department of Energy's Phase III Xlerator program, which will expand production capacity and support the development of TYCOR product enhancements for wind turbine blades. The company plans to train six incumbent workers and 19 new employees with the Energizing Careers Program training funds.

**Willard & Kelsey Solar Group, LLC** (Wood County), which will receive \$700,981 for worker training to manufacture highly efficient frameless Cadmium Telluride photovoltaic solar panels that ensure cost-effective production and installation for residential, commercial, and industrial large power-generating facilities. Willard and Kelsey began commercial operations in Perrysburg on January 1, 2011 at a state-of-the-art 250,000-square-foot manufacturing facility. The company plans for a major expansion within the next six years, building an additional 750,000-square-foot factory and employing 3,600 people. The company plans to train 50 incumbent workers and 250 new employees with the Energizing Careers Program training funds.

For more information on the Energizing Careers Program, visit <http://www.ohioworkforceboard.org>.

*The Workforce and Talent Division provides financial assistance and technical resources for customized training involving employees of new and expanding Ohio businesses. The Division also supports community economic development efforts through job creation and retention. The result is increased employee productivity, improved labor/management relations, and a highly skilled labor pool.*

*Working with our partners across business, state and local governments, academia, and the nonprofit sector, the Ohio Department of Development works to attract, create, grow, and retain businesses through competitive incentives and targeted investments. Engaged every day in marketing, innovating, investing, and collaborating, the Ohio Department of Development works at the speed of business to accelerate and support the teamwork that is necessary for success by providing financial, informational, and technical assistance to those making an investment in Ohio's future.*

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