May 8, 2014

IXL Group Opens Structure Manufacturing Plant in Adelaide to Supply First Solar Australian Projects

Renewable industry creating jobs and providing alternate growth path to local manufacturers

ADELAIDE, South Australia, 8 May 2014 – First Solar, Inc. (Nasdaq: FSLR) and the IXL Group (IXL) of companies are announcing today the opening of IXL's new structure manufacturing plant in Adelaide. The facility will enable IXL to assemble and deliver the mounting structures for First Solar's 155 MW (AC) utility-scale solar photovoltaic (PV) projects at Nyngan and Broken Hill in New South Wales – Australia's largest utility-scale solar projects to-date. The plant is expected to create approximately 40 local jobs and is evidence of First Solar's commitment to supporting Australian manufacturers. IXL also received support from the Automotive New Markets Program (ANMP) to assist with the capital expenditure required to establish the plant. The ANMP is jointly funded by the Commonwealth and Victorian Governments, and delivered in collaboration with the South Australian Government to assist automotive suppliers to diversify their customer base and product range.

Historically, IXL's metal stamping and roll-forming capability supplied the local automotive industry. Today, IXL has a dedicated business unit focused on producing structural components for solar projects. Located on a site of over 16,000 square metres with a building of 4000 square metres in Salisbury South in Adelaide's northern suburbs, IXL's new facility will produce approximately 100,000 mounting structures for the Nyngan and Broken Hill projects, using over 6000 tonnes of Australian-made steel. Production is now underway.

"As the solar industry continues to grow in Australia, there will be an increasing need and demand for a reliable and efficient local supplier base," said Jack Curtis, First Solar's Vice President of Business Development for Asia Pacific. "Continued utilisation of local suppliers will not only reduce the cost of delivering solar power to Australia, but it will also create local jobs, develop regional skills and support more sustainable employment. Local procurement accounts for 56.3 per cent of First Solar's total procurement spending on the Nyngan and Broken Hill projects, with over 450 direct construction jobs expected to be created and over $66 million spent on local equipment for both projects."

"The opening of our Adelaide manufacturing plant is another significant milestone in the development of our solar business," said Claude Dagescy, IXL Solar's General Manager. "As local automotive manufacturing declines, we have sought new business opportunities. Making mounting structures for First Solar has been a natural extension of our business and we believe Australian-made mounting systems can be more than competitive with imports. IXL's ongoing work with First Solar demonstrates that."

IXL previously provided First Solar with a cost-effective, Australian-manufactured framing capability for the 10MW Greenough River Solar Farm (GRSF) in Western Australia in 2012. At the time, it was Australia's first and largest utility-scale solar project. Two years later, the scale and footprint of the NSW projects demonstrate that utility-scale solar is becoming a proven, bankable source of power generation in Australia today.

"Solar is increasingly being recognised as a mainstream energy source globally," said Shellie Molina, First Solar's Vice President of Global Supply Chain. "Today's announcement demonstrates that the renewable energy industry is a driver of investment, building economic and alternative business opportunities across Australia. The opening of the IXL manufacturing plant in Adelaide tells a positive story of job creation, the transfer and development of regional skills and sustainable industry development in Australia".

About the IXL Group

The IXL Group of companies has operations throughout Australia with its Head Office in Geelong, and has been in business since 1858. It is family owned, and today, in addition to IXL Solar, has operations in appliance marketing and distribution, appliance assembly, metal stamping and roll-forming and metal casting. For more information, see www.ixl.com.au and www.ixlsolar.com.au

About First Solar, Inc.

First Solar is a leading global provider of comprehensive photovoltaic (PV) solar systems which use its advanced module and system technology. The company's integrated power plant solutions deliver an economically attractive alternative to fossil-fuel electricity generation today. From raw material sourcing through end-of-life module recycling, First Solar's renewable energy systems protect and enhance the environment. For more information about First Solar, please visit www.firstsolar.com.

For First Solar Investors

This release contains forward-looking statements which are made pursuant to safe harbor provisions of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. These forward-looking statements include statements, among other things, concerning: our business strategy, including anticipated trends and developments in and management plans for our business and the markets in which we operate; future financial results, operating results, revenues, gross margin, operating expenses, products, projected costs, warranties, solar module efficiency and balance of systems ("BoS") cost reduction roadmaps, restructuring, product reliability and capital expenditures; our ability to continue to reduce the cost per watt of our solar modules; our ability to reduce the costs to construct photovoltaic ("PV") solar power systems; research and development programs and our ability to improve the conversion efficiency of our solar modules; sales and marketing initiatives; and competition. These forward-looking statements are often characterized by the use of words such as "estimate," "expect," "anticipate," "project," "plan," "intend," "believe," "forecast," "foresee," "likely," "may," "should," "goal," "target," "might," "will," "could," "predict," "continue" and the negative or plural of these words and other comparable terminology. Forward-looking statements are only predictions based on our current expectations and our projections about future events. You should not place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements. We undertake no obligation to update any of these forward-looking statements for any reason. These forward-looking statements involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties, and other factors that may cause our actual results, levels of activity, performance, or achievements to differ materially from those expressed or implied by these statements. These factors include, but are not limited to, the matters discussed in Item 1A: "Risk Factors," of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2012, as updated and supplemented by risk factors included in our Prospectus dated June 12, 2013 filed with the SEC pursuant to Rule 424(b)(5) (the "Prospectus"), Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q, Current Reports on Form 8-K and other reports filed with the SEC.

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