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First Solar Recognizes NSG Vietnam Glass Industries with Supplier Award

“Outstanding Quality Award” bestowed on TCO glass supplier

TEMPE, Ariz., July 20, 2016 – First Solar (Nasdaq: FSLR) has recognized NSG Group company Vietnam Glass Industries (VGI) with the solar module manufacturer’s 2016 Outstanding Quality Award, citing the supplier’s continuous quality improvement efforts and enduring commitment to First Solar’s Supplier Quality Continuous Improvement (SQCI) process.

VGI supplies the transparent conductive oxide (TCO) coated glass used in the manufacture of First Solar’s advanced technology thin film solar modules. VGI is First Solar’s primary source for TCO glass used at its module manufacturing facility in Kulim, Malaysia.

“Delivering a sustained pace of quality enhancements aligned with First Solar’s commitment to innovation requires our suppliers to continuously improve their processes, tools and methods,” said Azmat Sidiqi, First Solar’s Senior Technical Advisor. “We are delighted to work with such a nimble supplier as VGI. Their participation in our SQCI process began in 2012, and the results have been significant for both companies.”

Sidiqqi said VGI has improved production output and greater material availability while building a stronger customer relationship with First Solar. “This is a well-deserved recognition,” he said.

“NSG is extremely honored to receive this quality award from First Solar,” said Hiroyuki Nakamura, General Director. “The team at the VGI plant in Vietnam has been able to develop a robust and close relationship with First Solar at KLM while working on the SQCI process. We have been able to improve performance in many areas of our business, building on our expertise in glass. We will continue to strive to meet the high quality standards established by First Solar to provide benefits to both of our companies.”

The NSG Group is one of the world’s leading manufacturers of glass and glazing systems, including the Architectural Glass division that produces the TCO glass used by First Solar. VGI – a wholly-owned subsidiary of Nippon Sheet Glass Co., Ltd., the parent of NSG Group – manufactures coated glass products in My Xuan, southern Vietnam.

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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: effects on our financial statements and guidance resulting from pending tax matters; 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 (including estimated future module collection and recycling costs), warranties, solar module efficiency and balance of systems cost reduction roadmaps, restructuring, product reliability, investments in unconsolidated affiliates 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 PV solar power systems; research and development programs and our ability to improve the conversion efficiency of our solar modules; our ability to expand manufacturing capacity worldwide; 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," “seek,” "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 most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K, Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q, Current Reports on Form 8-K and other reports filed with the SEC.

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