



ULVAC Technologies, Inc.

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ULVAC Wins Order From NexPower Technology Corporation For Complete Solar Cell Manufacturing Plant To Be Built In Taiwan

Deal will include all manufacturing peripheral equipment and production training
Chigasaki, Japan

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Following a 2 year period of study and preparation, United Microelectronics Corporation (UMC) subsidiary NexPower Technology Corporation has decided to establish a new solar cell manufacturing plant in Taiwan. They have signed an agreement today to use ULVAC's full-scale thin film manufacturing line equipment which will include all solar cell manufacturing peripheral equipment such as plasma CVD equipment, laser scribing equipment, sputtering equipment, and sealing equipment, etc. In addition, ULVAC will provide all the actual production training and start-up of the manufacturing line which will handle 1.1m x 1.4m size substrates, suitable for main power electric generation.

Prior to today's agreement, ULVAC already conducted process verification with small size substrates, and has now started to process the large 1.1m x 1.4m size substrates in their Chigasaki factory. This phase of the project will be completed by mid-2007. At the same time, ULVAC is developing micro-crystalline Si process and tandem structure followed by an a-Si process in order to improve power generation efficiency. NexPower Technology Corporation is expected to operate the factory at a production volume rate of 12.5MW per year with a-Si and plans to expand production volume gradually from that point. The ultimate production goal is 100MW/year with micro-crystalline and tandem structure. The plant will be located in Hsinchu, Taiwan, and will begin operations in Q1-2008. It is expected that this \$2 billion Taiwanese dollar capital investment will make NexPower the leading producer of the largest size solar cells in Taiwan.

ULVAC has been mainly providing solar cell manufacturing equipment to companies in Japan since the early 1980's. In the 1990's, ULVAC focused heavily on the commercialization of TFT-LCD based [FPD manufacturing equipment and technology](#). Today, as a result of increased inquiries from prospective customers about thin film solar cell manufacturing equipment, ULVAC is once again focusing on [solar cell manufacturing technology](#) and plans to bring their extensive FPD manufacturing line expertise over to the solar cell manufacturing side of their business. Few, if any companies are able to match ULVAC's breadth and depth of thin film production equipment experience and the handling of large, fragile substrates in a high volume manufacturing line environment.

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