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Powercom to construct polysilicon fab in Taiwan

Nuying Huang, Taipei; Esther Lam, DIGITIMES [Thursday 19 June 2008]

UPS maker Powercom has indicated that it plans to construct a polysilicon fab located in Yilan on the eastern coast of Taiwan. Powercom already has a subsidiary on solar cell production.

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Construction is set to begin soon with capacity to start coming online in the fourth quarter of 2009. First-phase capacity is set at 1,500 metric tons. Powercom detailed that eight phases of capacity are scheduled, with the total amount to reach 12,000 metric tons.

Industry sources indicated that the polysilicon fab will produce via the traditional Siemens method, with technology to be inherited from Germany and the US. Investors added in saying that Powercom will need to raise NT\$6 billion (US\$197.5 million) to fund the construction.

Powercom's motivation to construct the fab is the improving performance at its solar cell subsidiary Top Green Energy, the sources said. Top Green has posted poorer-than-expected performance since beginning operations, but swung to profit in April 2008 on sales of NT\$200 million and profit of NT\$20 million after securing a long-term supply contract with a leading silicon wafer supplier. After seeing Top Green swing to profit, Powercom decided to gear up its vertical integration, the sources said.

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