

## APPLIED MATERIALS BUILDS SOLAR ENERGY R&D CENTER IN CHINA

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XI'AN, Nov 11, 2008 (AsiaPulse via COMTEX) -- [AMAT](#) | [Quote](#) | [Chart](#) | [News](#) | [PowerRating](#) -- Applied Materials Inc. of the United States recently kicked off the construction of its global solar energy research and development (R&D) center in Xi'an, capital of Northwest China's Shaanxi Province.



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Applied Materials will inject US\$45 million into the R&D center, which is expected to come into operation in June 2009, covering 34,000 square meters of floor space.

After completion, the new center will be the world's first solar energy R&D center integrating thin-film and crystalline silicon solar energy technologies, and it is also one of the most advanced and largest ones globally.

The R&D center will install a complete SunFab 5.7-sq m. thin film solar panel experimental production line for the purposes of technological renovation, demonstration and training as well as testing and certifying of spare parts.

Meanwhile, the center will introduce the top-level solar energy R&D of the United States and Europe to China.

It will bring the total investment of Applied Materials in Xi'an up to US\$300 million. As early as April 2006, the American company had pumped US\$255 million of investment into the building of a Global Development and Technology Support Center in Xi'an's High-Tech Zone.

(XIC)