



GREATER PHOENIX  
ECONOMIC COUNCIL

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Arizona delegation lands new prospects at Intersolar show State makes short list for solar manufacturing and headquarter operations**

**PHOENIX (July 24, 2009)** — The Greater Phoenix Economic Council returned from the 2009 Intersolar North America show in San Francisco with more than a dozen new prospects and leads.

The Valley is on the short list for 10 new solar projects that will announce locations this year. Projects include manufacturing, headquarter operations and research facilities, with several tied to international investment from Germany, Canada and China. Leaders also secured connections with six other companies that have future projects planned in the next two years.

“The Intersolar conference was a huge success,” said Barry Broome, president and CEO of GPEC. “There was considerable interest in Arizona and our unique offering to solar companies. The new Renewable Energy Tax Incentive Program gave us the edge we needed to attract these prospects.”

GPEC, along with a delegation of community leaders, spent three days at Intersolar, one of the industry’s largest international shows in the country. Leaders met with executives from global and multi-national solar energy companies representing about \$2 billion in investment and 1,500 jobs. They promoted Arizona as a top place to do business and touted the new Renewable Industries program.

Gov. Jan Brewer signed the \$350 million tax incentive package July 10, just days before the solar conference. Michael Bidwill, GPEC chairman and Arizona Cardinals president, Kris Mayes, Arizona Corporate Commission chairwoman, and Broome announced the newly signed bill at the show.

“The new program clearly helped our recruitment efforts,” said Christine Mackay, Chandler’s Economic Development director. “It is exciting to see how many more doors are now open to us.”

The local delegation included Fountain Hills Mayor Jay Schlum and Surprise and Peoria leadership.

“We met with many solar leaders from around the globe and presented the many reasons Arizona is a strategic location for the solar industry,” Schlum said. “It was a fruitful event. In fact, one of our meetings uncovered a solar company already planning an investment in Fountain Hills.”

GPEC’s participation at this show aligns with several key initiatives for fiscal year 2010, including pursuit of opportunities in California, continued efforts to attract foreign direct investment, development of Arizona’s renewable energy cluster and stakeholder engagement from our public- and private-sector partners.

**About the Greater Phoenix Economic Council (GPEC)** *A true public/private partnership, GPEC is the regional economic development organization for Greater Phoenix. Working with its 18 member communities, Maricopa County and more than 140 private investors, GPEC attracts quality businesses to this dynamic region. For more information, visit [www.gpec.org](http://www.gpec.org).*