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## NEWS RELEASE

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### **BUILDING INDUSTRY TURNS TO TUBULAR DAYLIGHTING DEVICES TO EARN LEED™ CERTIFICATION CREDITS**

*Innovative Technology Provides Simple, Affordable and Effective Way  
To Earn Credits in National “Green” Building Rating System*

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**(Vista, Calif.):** Sustainable – or “green” – building design is gaining momentum around the nation, particularly in the governmental sector as various agencies now require more environmentally responsible design. **The Tubular Daylighting Device (TDD) is one green design tool that architects are increasingly turning to as an easy and effective way to earn green certification credits for these projects.**

The TDD, first introduced by **Solatube International Inc.** more than a decade ago as a daylighting product for the home, has evolved tremendously in recent years. The latest generation of TDDs from Solatube International, the Solatube Daylighting System, is designed specifically for the demanding lighting requirements of commercial and institutional buildings. Solatube Daylighting Systems provide tremendous daylighting capabilities from a single unit, and feature a modular design that makes their installation simple and turn-key. From office space to warehouse and industrial areas, and from cafeterias to restrooms, Solatube Daylighting Systems provide a simple daylighting solution and an easy way to earn a variety of LEED certification credits.

“There are LEED points in several categories that are obtainable by using Solatube [Daylighting Systems], most notably in the energy category. With just one measure, a project is eligible for a variety of potential points,” said Laurie Fisher, director of sustainable design with Tucker Sadler Noble Castro Architects in San Diego. “It would be difficult to convince me to use any other product besides Solatube [Daylighting Systems]. It has been the most tested and proven. Plus, the company is clearly dedicated to research and innovation.”

Fisher specified Solatube Daylighting Systems into a Boys and Girls Club Teen Center project in San Diego, allowing for 90 percent of the building to be daylit. The building was able to exceed Title 24 (California’s stringent energy code requirement) by more than 20 percent and save the center thousands of dollars annually in energy costs.

The **U.S. Green Building Council’s Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design (LEED™)** rating system is a voluntary national standard for developing high-performance, sustainable buildings. LEED emphasizes state-of-the-art strategies for sustainable development, water savings, energy efficiency, materials selection and indoor environmental quality.

An increasing number of local, state and federal governmental agencies and departments are utilizing the LEED rating system for their projects, including the Department of Defense, General Services Administration, NASA, Environmental Protection Agency, State Department, National Institutes of Health, Food and Drug Administration and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, among others.

Many agencies require LEED Certified as a minimum requirement, while others require LEED Silver\* as a goal. Some agencies have stated that at least 20 percent of all major construction shall follow LEED guidelines, with increasing percentages of projects required until 2009, when all construction projects are to be capable of achieving LEED certification. A number of states, counties and municipalities have also established LEED-based regulations for their building and renovation projects.

In order to promote green design in the private sector, many state and local programs are now providing direct benefits to projects that obtain LEED certification, with incentives in the form of grants, tax credits, expedited permitting processes or exemption from specific zoning restrictions. States offering some of these perks include California, New York, Maryland and Oregon. Municipal examples include the cities of Seattle; Austin; San Jose; Pittsburgh; Arlington, Va., and Portland, Ore.

“The Solatube Daylighting System is currently specified in dozens of LEED projects because of the potential it offers for improved light quality, energy savings and the use of recycled materials. No other product on the market offers as much potential for reduced dependence on electric lighting,” said Neall Digert, Ph.D., MIES, Solatube International’s vice president, commercial market development. “Solatube has made the previously complex and sometimes problematic area of daylighting into a turnkey solution that can be designed into a project with as much ease and certainty as any electric lighting fixture. In fact, Solatube International is becoming known as the product of choice among sustainable architects and lighting designers.”

Solatube Daylighting Systems were part of the LEED gold-certified design of the 66,000-square-foot EPA New England Regional Laboratory in North Chelmsford, Mass. As the nation’s environmental agency, the EPA claims that it was its duty to lead by example – to “walk the walk” in achieving a high level of environmental performance.

“Daylighting is such an important part of the design of buildings because it is directly linked to occupant performance and health, as well as contributes to energy savings,” said Kris Callori, principal of Environmental Dynamics Inc. of Albuquerque, N.M. “We specify Solatube [Daylighting Systems] on most of our building projects.”

**Solatube Daylighting Systems can be used to earn or contribute to the following LEED certification credits:**

**Daylight Credit.** A minimum daylight factor of two percent in 75 percent of all space occupied for visual tasks. (One point)

- ❑ **Energy Optimization Credit.** Solatube Daylighting Systems can play a large part in earning this credit, which is determined by reducing the design energy cost compared to the energy cost budget for energy systems. (One to 10 points)
- ❑ **Recycled Content Credit.** The Solatube Daylighting System uses recycled content in its lenses, fasteners and trim pieces. This credit requires that the project uses materials with recycled content such that the sum of post-consumer recycled content plus one-half of the post-industrial content constitutes at least five percent of the total value of the materials in the project. (One point for five percent; one additional point if recycled materials constitute 10 percent of the total value of the project materials.)
- ❑ **Regional Credit.** A credit is available if the project uses a minimum of 20 percent of its building materials and products that are manufactured within a 500-mile radius. For projects in Southern California or Arizona, Solatube products can help earn this credit. (One point)
- ❑ **System Controllability Credit.** Projects can qualify for this credit when Solatube Daylighting Systems are used in conjunction with the Daylight Dimmer, which provides users with total control of the daylight environment. (One to two points)

- **Innovation in Design Credit.** A credit point is available for exceptional performance above the requirements set by LEED and/or innovative performance in green building categories not specifically addressed by the rating system. (One to four points)

*Solatube International Inc., based in Vista, Calif. (northern San Diego County), is the worldwide leading manufacturer and marketer of Tubular Daylighting Devices (TDDs). The company's flagship product, the Solatube Daylighting System, provides a revolutionary natural lighting solution for all types of residential and commercial applications and is the only spec-grade TDD currently available on the market. The maxim "Innovation in Daylighting™" reflects the company's commitment to the development of breakthrough daylighting technologies, which has resulted in numerous patents dating back to the mid-1980s. Widely recognized as the industry innovator, Solatube International has earned acclaim around the globe for its unrivaled ability to transform interior spaces with the power of daylight. For more information on the Solatube Daylighting System or other products manufactured and marketed by Solatube International, including solar-powered attic ventilation fans, please visit the Solatube website at [www.solatube.com](http://www.solatube.com) or call 888-SOLATUBE (888-765-2882).*

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*\* The more points a project gains based on its design and construction, the higher the rating, which ranges from LEED Certified, to LEED Silver, Gold or Platinum.*