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SolarCity Selects Battery System for Kaua'i Co-op Solar Storage Project

Līhu'e, Kaua'i, HI – 02/16/16 – SolarCity has selected Tesla Energy to supply the batteries for a first-of-its-kind solar array and energy storage system to be built for Kaua'i Island Utility Cooperative (KIUC).

SolarCity made the selection after conducting a comprehensive competitive solicitation in the battery marketplace. The proposed SolarCity/Tesla project is believed to be the first utility-scale system in the U.S. to provide dispatchable solar energy, meaning that the utility can count on electricity being available when it's needed, even hours after the sun goes down.

The 52 MWh Tesla Powerpack lithium-ion battery storage system will feed up to 13 megawatts of electricity onto the grid to “shave” the amount of conventional power generation needed to meet peak demand in the evening from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m.

By using the solar energy stored in the battery instead of diesel generators, KIUC will reduce its use of imported fossil fuels and also cut its greenhouse gas emissions.

Under the terms of the 20-year contract announced in September 2015, KIUC will pay SolarCity 13.9 cents per kilowatt hour, only slightly more than the cost of energy from KIUC's two existing 12 megawatt solar arrays, whose output is available only during the day.

The array and battery storage facility will be built on 50 acres of land owned by Grove Farm Company, Inc. adjacent to KIUC's Kapaia power station off Mā'alo Road, just north of Līhu'e.

The project has already received most of its required state and county approvals and is now awaiting approval by the Hawai'i Public Utilities Commission. KIUC and SolarCity have requested an accelerated timetable for review of the project so that construction work can begin by April with a goal of being in commercial operation by the end of 2016.

(more)

About KIUC

KIUC is a member-owned cooperative serving 33,000 customers on the island of Kaua‘i. Formed in 2002 and governed by a nine-member, elected board of directors, KIUC is one of 930 electric co-ops serving more than 36 million members in 47 states.

About SolarCity

SolarCity (NASDAQ: SCTY) provides clean energy through residential, commercial and utility-scale solar systems and energy storage. The company has disrupted the century-old energy industry by providing renewable electricity directly to homeowners, businesses and government organizations for less than they spend on utility bills.

About Tesla

Tesla Motors' (NASDAQ: TSLA) goal is to accelerate the world's transition to sustainable transport with a full range of increasingly affordable electric cars. Palo Alto, Calif.-based Tesla designs and manufactures electric vehicles as well as renewable energy storage for residential and commercial applications.

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