December 16, 2009

Pepsi Facilities in China, Chile Deploy Orion Energy Systems Technology

Orion Technology Outperforms Competitors on a Global Level

MANITOWOC, Wis., Dec 16, 2009 (GlobeNewswire via COMTEX News Network) -- PepsiCo International has chosen to install technology from Orion Energy Systems Inc. (Nasdaq:OESX) at its Nanchang, China, and Santiago, Chile, facilities -- projects that will reduce energy waste and associated energy costs.

The projects are the first for Orion in China and Chile. In addition to the approximately 130 Pepsi facilities in North America that Orion has completed, Orion has installed its technology in a Pepsi foods group facility in Curitiba, Brazil.

Klaus Pilz of Orion's business development group, said the projects were spurred by Pepsi's environmental sustainability initiative that includes reducing its water consumption, utilizing sustainable packaging, and decreasing its energy consumption worldwide.

"The decision by Pepsi to deploy our energy-saving technology at its China and Chile facilities validates its superior performance and Pepsi's commitment to improving the environment worldwide," said Orion's CEO Neal Verfuerth. "After having completed more than 130 facilities in the United States, their decision to install our technology abroad confirms Pepsi's confidence in our technology and services."

At both facilities, Orion is installing its high-intensity fluorescent, Compact Modular(TM) lighting technology, which is designed to reduce energy waste by 50 percent while providing 50 percent more light than traditional, high-intensity discharge, or HID, lighting.

A field test at the Nanchang, China site verified that Orion's technology delivers increased lighting and decreased operating costs when compared to high-intensity discharge lighting.

Had the facility chosen HID lighting, the bottling plant would have wasted approximately 202,000 kilowatt-hours a year.

As a result of the energy savings, the Pepsi facility will keep more than 2,650 tons of carbon dioxide from entering the atmosphere during the life of the technology. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, the carbon dioxide savings is the air-scrubbing equivalent of a 37-acre forest or removing 33 cars from the road. The savings also is the equivalent of saving 16,675 gallons of gasoline a year.

The greenhouse gas reductions at the Pepsi facility reflect Chinese President Hu Jintao's comments at a United Nations summit in late September where he said China is proactive in reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

In the speech, called the first U.N. speech on climate change by a Chinese leader, Hu pledged to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by a "notable margin" to improve the environment worldwide.

China and the United States are the world's largest emitters of greenhouse gases that contribute to climate change.

In Santiago, Chile, Orion's technology is expected to reduce the facility's lighting-related energy consumption and costs by approximately 68 percent.

As a result of installing the energy-saving technologies, the facility will decrease its electricity consumption by 228,720 kilowatt-hours, from nearly 335,000 kilowatt-hours to about 106,000 kilowatt-hours.

The reduction in electricity use means the facility will help curb carbon dioxide emissions by more than 3,000 tons over the life of Orion's technology, according to the Environmental Protection Agency. In addition, the retrofit will help keep more than 12 tons of sulfur dioxide and nearly 41/2 tons of nitrogen oxides from entering the atmosphere.

The greenhouse gas reductions are the air-scrubbing equivalent of a 42-acre forest or removing 37 cars from the road, according to the EPA. The reduction also is the environmental equivalent of saving about 19,000 gallons of gasoline a year.

Orion's technology has reduced Pepsi's overall energy consumption by more than 74.2 million kilowatt-hours, reducing its

carbon dioxide emissions by nearly 48,700 tons, according to the EPA. That's the air-scrubbing equivalent of a 13,600-acre forest or like removing more than 12,000 cars from the road.

Orion has deployed its energy management systems in 5,082 facilities across North America. Since 2001, Orion technology has displaced more than 477 megawatts, saving customers more than \$710 million and reducing indirect carbon dioxide emissions by 6.1 million tons.

Orion Energy Systems Inc. (Nasdaq:OESX) is a leading power technology enterprise that designs, manufactures and implements energy management systems, consisting primarily of high-performance, energy-efficient lighting platforms, intelligent wireless control systems and direct renewable solar technology for commercial and industrial customers without compromising their operations. For more information, visit <u>www.oesx.com</u>.

This news release was distributed by GlobeNewswire, www.globenewswire.com

SOURCE: Orion Energy Systems, Inc.

CONTACT: Orion Energy Systems, Inc. Media Contact Linda Diedrich, Director Corporate Communications (920) 482-1988 <u>ljd@oesl.com</u>

(C) Copyright 2009 GlobeNewswire, Inc. All rights reserved.

News Provided by COMTEX