

## P R E S S   R E L E A S E

### **Scheuten officially opens Sunrise pilot plant in Venlo**

**Today, 21 June 2007, the Minister of Economic Affairs, Mrs Maria van der Hoeven, and Mr Jacques Scheuten have officially put the Sunrise pilot plant into operation.**

After 8 years of investing, Mrs Van der Hoeven and Mr Scheuten officially opened the Sunrise pilot plant this morning. In the new plant, a revolutionary invention will be applied that makes mass production of thin-film solar cells possible. More than seven years of intensive development have gone into this new process for solar energy. The most significant feature of this innovation is the attachment of photovoltaic material on minutely small glass pearls. Each minutely small 0.2 mm glass pearl is a solar cell. This technology can easily be scaled up to large surfaces, flexible dimensions and produces considerable synergies with existing glass technology. It is expected that the market share of thin film solar cells will increase in the coming years from eight percent in 2007 to 20 percent in 2012.

Scheuten also presented the first plans for the new Sunrise plant and the Campus this morning. In 2009 the 250-megawatt plant will be built next to the A67, which will create 500 new high-tech jobs. Before this, a new insulating glass plant will be put into operation on the same site in early 2008. A campus will be created next to the A67 on an area of 25 hectares between 2008 and 2015, whereby Scheuten will further expand both its glass and solar activities. "The purpose of this campus is to create an area for people with their own DNA and soul, where everybody can combine glass and solar applications into innovative solutions. By doing this they will provide energy, sustainability, growth and life to the customers of Scheuten and the world," explains Leon Giesen, CEO.

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*Scheuten is a leading and fast growing manufacturer of total solutions in glass and solar energy systems with its head office in Venlo. At the end of 2006 Scheuten employed a staff of 1,200 and turnover exceeded 200 million euros.*

*Scheuten continually invests in new developments. New innovative glass products are developed by combining knowledge from all its production facilities. Cooperation with leading universities and research institutes leads to sustainable, functional solutions in the fields of glass and solar technology.*

#### **For further information please apply to:**

Lilian Geurtjens

Communication Manager

Phone: +31 77 3599202

Fax: +31 77 3599227

E-mail: [lgeurtjens@scheuten.com](mailto:lgeurtjens@scheuten.com)

Website: [www.scheuten.com](http://www.scheuten.com)