



Merced Irrigation District continues sponsorship of Solar Institute at UC Merced

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MERCED, CA – Merced Irrigation District announced today that for a third straight year it will remain a major sponsor of solar energy research at UC Merced. The District noted the progress made by the program.

“MID remains committed to clean energy,” said Don Ouchley, Deputy General Manager of Energy Resources. “A significant focus of the UC Solar institute is its effort to make solar energy more affordable. This is of absolute critical importance to MID.”

MID became the first public utility to sponsor the University of California Advanced Solar Technologies Institute in 2011. More commonly known as “UC Solar,” the multi-campus effort is headquartered at UC Merced and aims to develop efficient and affordable solar technologies. The institute is also working to develop solar energy leaders and entrepreneurs.

Ongoing research and development continues to be funded by government and corporate research grants and private philanthropy. The research program is led by UC Merced professor and world-renowned solar energy researcher Roland Winston.

Through collaboration with the solar industry, UC Solar researchers are working to develop technologies that can quickly be brought to the marketplace. The institute began in 2010 with a \$2.25 million grant from the UC Office of Research and includes faculty from UC campuses in Merced, Berkeley, Davis, San Diego, Santa Barbara, Riverside, Irvine and Santa Cruz.

Additionally, UC Solar is now collaborating with universities in Australia and the U.S. on a new Micro Urban Solar Integrated Concentrators (MUSIC) grant that will expand UC Merced's capabilities to develop and test concentrating solar thermal technologies.

“Merced Irrigation District has been a terrific sponsor over the years,” Winston said. “They have been great about sharing their real-world energy management experience with our faculty, students and researchers. MID has supported our summer solar education program for visiting students from abroad, and they have also highlighted this program in their newsletter. We are very pleased that they have

decided to renew their sponsorship for the 2013-2014 membership year. This will absolutely benefit our research activities.”

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