

For immediate release

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Affordable Energy Efficient Solar Community Goes Online

Kingston, New York, August 23, 2004 - SunWize Technologies announced today that the first eight homes in one of the largest affordable energy efficient solar communities in the United States have been completed. The gated community of Grand View Estates located on the shores of Clear Lake, CA, two hours north of San Francisco, features 90 well-appointed solar homes with the latest in energy efficiency and affordability. Each modular home integrates energy conservation and grid-tied solar system technology at a starting price of \$230,000 and low monthly utility bills. "Grand View Estates can set an example for developers everywhere that solar should be installed on every new home. This location is ideal for solar with no obstructions and a good deal of sun most of the year," stated Dan Schoenfeld, the developer of the community. "These homes use only the highest quality building elements and their modular pre-fabricated design allows us to build environmental friendly communities at an affordable price. We were fortunate to work with some industry leaders such as SunWize Technologies and Gaia Productions." SunWize Residential Grid-Tie Systems (GTS) are installed on each house and Gaia Productions, Willits, CA, performed the installation and system integration work.

The all-electric, Fuqua factory built homes from Oregon are very energy efficient with R-40 rated insulation in the ceiling, R-33 in the floors and R-21 in the walls. Higher R-Values indicate better thermal performance of the insulation. All units feature energy saving low-e (low-emissivity) windows that are coated to block heat from coming in while allowing visible light to pass through. Appliances such as the refrigerator, dishwasher and stove carry the Energy Star label, which means they meet strict energy efficiency guidelines set by the EPA and US Department of Energy. Typical utility bills for this area are \$150 to \$400 per month. Mr. Schoenfeld expects many of the buyers will be young families and retirees who will be attracted to the unique combination of solar and energy efficiency to help reduce their utility bills by as much as 75%.

SunWize GTS systems are prepackaged and use UL listed products. The Grand View Estates systems were designed for developers to reduce assembly and installation time. The 2.5 kW GTS systems include 16 Sharp 185 watt solar modules and the new Fronius IG inverter. SunWize's exclusive interconnection scheme for modules and grounding system hides all cables and makes installation easier. With a twenty-year power output warranty and five-year system warranty, the systems meet NEC code requirements and US safety standards.

One of the key components of the grid-tied solar system is the new FRONIUS IG 3000 inverter. At 26 lbs., the FRONIUS IG inverters are less than half the weight of competing inverters. Built-in DC and AC disconnects eliminate the need for external disconnects in many cases, reducing total system costs. FRONIUS IG inverters come standard with an integrated LCD where the installer can view and record over 20 parameters pertaining to inverter and system operation. "The lightweight design and ease of installation make the Fronius inverters very installer-friendly," says Hardy Kuenzl, owner of Gaia Productions. The FRONIUS IG inverters offer high efficiency, precision MPP-tracking, and intelligent thermal management, all of which result in superior energy output from grid-tied photovoltaic systems. Optional remote data communications and data logging features can easily be added via Plug-n-Play cards to transform IG inverters into a sophisticated data acquisition system and weather station.

About SunWize

SunWize Technologies, a solar technology company, specializes in the design and manufacture of integrated solar power systems, and associated project development and product distribution. The company operates a manufacturing/distribution facility in Kingston, NY and a distribution center in Oxnard, CA. www.sunwize.com

About Fronius

Fronius International GmbH is a world market leader in high frequency welding technology and one of the

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leading photovoltaic inverter manufacturers. Headquarters in Wels, Austria, the US Solar Electronics Division, Fronius USA LLC, is located in Santa Barbara, CA. Fronius has over 50 years of experience in developing innovative power conversion technologies and employs over 1300 globally. Fronius was founded in 1945 and has developed a revolutionary inverter concept that is used for both grid-tied as well as stand-alone solar systems. Over 80,000 Fronius solar inverters have been installed worldwide. Fronius Solar Electronics Division is supported through an international network of sales partners. For more information, please visit www.fronius.com or send an email to pv-us@fronius.com

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