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LAUNCH OF \$17M CLEAN ENERGY RESEARCH AND TESTBEDDING (CERT) PROGRAMME

First testbedding sites are Gardens by the Bay, Marina Barrage and Singapore Polytechnic

The government is committing S\$17 million over the next five years to the Clean Energy Research & Testbedding (CERT) Programme to stimulate research in the applications of Clean Technology in the Singapore energy sector. This is the first major programme launched by the Clean Energy Programme Office (CEPO), as part of the plan to boost the development of the local Clean Energy industry.

CERT is an inter-agency effort led by CEPO which will provide opportunities for companies to develop applications and solutions and testbed their Clean Energy technologies in Singapore, using government buildings and facilities. CERT involves three key partners in each project – R&D organisations, technology providers, and implementers. The R&D organisations will lead and conduct testbedding activities, while the technology providers will be private sector companies providing the Clean Energy equipment and technologies to participate in the testbedding. Government agencies which are providing the testbedding location and facilitating the project are the implementers.

Singapore Polytechnic and the National University of Singapore have been selected as the lead R&D organisations for CERT programme. National Parks Board's Gardens by the Bay, PUB's Marina Barrage and Singapore Polytechnic's campus will be the testbedding sites in this first phase of CERT. The second phase, starting by January 2008, will include the Building and Construction Authority (BCA)'s Zero-Energy Building and the Housing Development Board (HDB)'s Eco-Precinct @ Punggol. It is

envisaged that each new phase of CERT will be announced every four to six months until the CERT funding of S\$17 million is fully committed.

Clean Energy companies interested in participating in this programme are required to submit proposals on a competitive basis. The invitation for proposals for the first phase of CERT is as follows:

- National Parks Board's Gardens by the Bay – Oct/Nov 2007
- PUB's Marina Barrage – Sep 2007
- Singapore Polytechnic's campus – Oct 2007

Mr Ko Kheng Hwa, Managing Director, EDB, and Executive Director, CEPO, said, "CERT is an excellent opportunity for the private and public sectors to work together to develop and testbed cutting-edge Clean Energy solutions and systems by using government facilities as a 'field laboratory'. In the process, we build up industry expertise in the development and implementation of Clean Energy solutions. CEPO will be rolling out more initiatives related to R&D and manpower development in the next few months as part of the overall Clean Energy development plan."

By conducting research and testbedding in Singapore, CERT will enable Singapore-based companies to build their expertise and fine-tune their technologies for the international market. The competencies that would be built in the Clean Energy industry cluster include system integration, installation, architectural design, urban planning, green building technologies, energy efficiency and building integrated photovoltaics. The Singapore-based companies will in turn be able to leverage Singapore as a launchpad to export their products and services internationally.

Mr Ng Lang, Chief Executive Officer of National Parks Board, said: "Gardens by the Bay is an iconic project and we are committed to using sustainable energy and water solutions wherever possible. We are therefore excited to be part of the pioneer group involved in the CERT programme to testbed photovoltaic cells as one of the sustainable energy technologies to supplement the energy needs of the Gardens."

Mr Chan Yoon Kum, PUB's Assistant Chief Executive, said: "PUB, the national water agency, is keen to testbed the solar energy system at Marina Barrage and is pleased to be a partner in the CERT programme. The Marina Barrage will bring about three benefits – water supply, flood control and a lifestyle attraction – and will showcase Singapore as a model of water and environmental sustainability. The solar energy system will add to the green features at Marina Barrage for environmental sustainability."

Mr Low Wong Fook, Principal, Singapore Polytechnic, said: "Singapore Polytechnic has been working on Clean Energy technologies since 1993. Being appointed as a R&D partner and implementer for CERT Programme is a significant milestone in our journey to break new grounds in this field. We are also launching a new Diploma in Clean Energy to support the growing demand for Clean Energy technologists as Singapore forges ahead as a Cleantech hub. Student from this diploma course will benefit from participating in the R&D and testbedding activities of the CERT programme. The CERT programme is a win-win partnership for all concerned."

Earlier this year, the National Research Foundation (NRF) identified the field of Clean Energy, with emphasis on solar technology, as a key growth area in early 2007, as part of the broader Environmental & Water Technologies programme. A total of S\$170 million has been dedicated by NRF to develop and build R&D and manpower competencies in Clean Energy over the next five years. Together with funding from other government agencies, the total public funding available for Clean Energy is S\$350 million. Singapore aims to grow the Clean Energy industry to generate a total of S\$1.7 billion in value-added and 7,000 jobs by 2015, across a broad range of areas, including solar power, fuel cells, wind power, energy efficiency and carbon services.

To achieve greater effectiveness, the inter-agency Clean Energy Programme Office (CEPO) was established in March 2007 to drive the development of the Clean Energy industry in Singapore. Administratively set up in EDB, CEPO comprises members from six government agencies, namely EDB, BCA, National Environment Agency (NEA), Energy Market Authority (EMA), Agency for Science, Technology & Research

(A*STAR), International Enterprise (IE) Singapore as well as the Ministry of Trade & Industry. CEPO is jointly led by Executive Director Ko Kheng Hwa, concurrently Managing Director, EDB, and Co-Executive Director, John Keung, also CEO of BCA.

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***For enquiries regarding the 3 organisations' projects in the first phase of CERT,
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