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**For Immediate Release**  
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## **Governor, Shanahan Announce Advanced Energy Award for Solar Manufacturing Project in Toledo**

**Columbus, OH** – The first phase of a project to install and operate a system to manufacture highly pure polycrystalline silicon at the University of Toledo Clean and Alternative Energy Incubator this week received authorization for a \$1,428,000 loan from the \$150 million Ohio Advanced Energy Job Stimulus Program.

Governor Ted Strickland and Mark R. Shanahan, executive director of the Ohio Air Quality Development Authority (OAQDA) and the governor's energy advisor, made the announcement following authorization of the loan by OAQDA at its monthly meeting.

Buckeye Silicon, Inc. (BeSi), a wholly owned subsidiary of Sphere Renewable Energy Corporation (SREC) of California, is the loan recipient. BeSi, which will install and operate the project, will utilize SREC's patent-pending Reductive Combustion Process (RCP) manufacturing system to produce the polycrystalline silicon to supply the solar cell and wafer production industries. This product is the required material to produce about 90 percent of the world's solar cells and modules.

"Northwest Ohio is establishing itself as a national leader in the solar power industry through important projects like Buckeye Silicon," Strickland said. "This targeted investment will help keep Ohio on the cutting edge of advanced energy in the United States," Strickland said.

The BeSi system will produce 50 tons of polycrystalline silicon annually. The project's first phase will create nine new full-time jobs. Approximately 150 more jobs will be created when the project's second and final phase is complete. The total project investment is \$3,428,000.

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“Governor Strickland’s decision to make advanced energy a hallmark of his administration is already paying dividends by creating the jobs of the future in Ohio today. This important project will help supply a critical material to the solar industry in Ohio and around the nation,” Shanahan said.

"We looked at a number of locations where this project could have been sited," said Mark Erickson, BeSi executive vice president. "Ohio was our choice because of the state's rich manufacturing history and its peoples' strong work ethic. Additionally, the University of Toledo's renewable energy curriculum and photovoltaic expertise, coupled to the concentration of solar-based industries in northwest Ohio, was most appealing. All of these factors, combined with the financial support from the state's Advanced Energy Job Stimulus Program, were key in our decision."

Ohio’s Advanced Energy Job Stimulus Program includes \$84 million for non-coal related technology projects and \$66 million for clean coal projects. The program is part of the Ohio Bipartisan Stimulus Plan signed into law by Strickland in June 2008. Currently, 118 projects are in some stage of the application process. OAQDA is the administering agency for the program.

OAQDA is a non-regulatory government agency created to help Ohio businesses comply with clean air regulations. Through its Ohio Coal Development Office program, OAQDA also oversees the State of Ohio’s coal research, development and technology deployment efforts.

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The Ohio Air Quality Development Authority (OAQDA) is a non-regulatory government agency created to help Ohio businesses comply with clean air regulations. Through its Ohio Coal Development Office, OAQDA also oversees the State of Ohio’s coal research, development and technology deployment efforts. Since its creation in 1970, the Authority has provided technical and financial help to hundreds of large and small Ohio businesses, awarding more than \$7 billion to finance air quality projects. In addition, the OAQDA Executive Director was appointed the Governor’s Energy Advisor in January 2007. Subsequently, in 2008, OAQDA was named as administering authority for the \$150 million Advanced Energy Job Stimulus Program. For more information about OAQDA and its services, please visit its web site at [www.ohioairquality.org](http://www.ohioairquality.org).