

NEWS RELEASE

NSG Group to Expand Production Capacity of Coated Glass to Support the Solar Market

TOKYO (May 11, 2018) - NSG Group announced today the plan to invest a total of approximately 38 billion yen in the expansion of production capacity of online TCO (transparent conductive oxide) coated glass to support the growing solar market. The investment will fund the upgrade and restart of a currently dormant float line in Vietnam and the construction of a new glass production facility in the United States over the next three years.

The expanded global production capacity for TCO glass is expected to accelerate a shift in the company's product portfolio towards VA (value-added) products while supporting a long-term supply agreement with First Solar, the world's leading provider of comprehensive photovoltaic (PV) solar systems.

Global solar demand is expected to see a double-digit increase every year in the next three years and First Solar is expanding its production capacity for Series 6, the latest thin film module system with higher efficiency and energy yield.

Manufactured with the online coating technology, in which a conductive oxide on the glass surface is formed during its passage through the float line, NSG Group's TCO glass is very durable with a wide range of applications.

With the expanded supply capability for VA products, such as solar glass and other products, NSG Group intends to drive its growth strategy while supporting the increased use of renewable energy.

NSG Group (Nippon Sheet Glass, Co.Ltd.) is one of the world's largest manufacturers of glass and glazing products for the architectural, automotive industry and technical glass sectors. With around 27,000 employees, NSG Group has principal operations worldwide and sales in over 100 countries. Founded in 1918, the company was transformed in 2006 with the acquisition of Pilkington plc, itself a global leader in the glass industry and the inventor of the Float Glass process. The Pilkington name was retained as a brand for the Group's architectural and automotive products. www.nsg.com

First Solar, Inc. is a leading provider of comprehensive photovoltaic (PV) solar systems which use its advanced module and system technology. The company's integrated power plant solutions deliver an economically attractive alternative to fossil-fuel electricity generation today. From raw material sourcing through end-of-life module recycling, First Solar's energy systems protect and enhance the environment. For more information about First Solar, please visit www.firstsolar.com.

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