



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LARGEST SOLAR ELECTRIC SYSTEM IN WESTERN CANADA COMPLETED

SkyFire Energy Completes Installation of 260kW System for Okanagan College's Penticton Campus

CALGARY, AB, September 13, 2011 - The solar photovoltaic system installed on Okanagan College's newest building serves multiple purposes. In addition to supplying the building with most, or possibly all, of its annual electricity requirements, the system is also being used as a hands-on teaching tool for the college's trades and technology classes. Okanagan College's Director of Facilities, Steve Robinson explains the reason for going solar: "Even as we were planning and building the Centre of Excellence, students and staff were excited by the energy-saving efforts and technologies being employed. Sustainability ranks high among our goals at the College, and the solar energy system on this building is a key component of our efforts."



Photo: SkyFire Energy Inc

The building, dubbed the Centre of Excellence in Sustainable Building Technologies and Renewable Energy Conservation (OCCE) opened this fall and has been built to meet the ambitious targets of the Living Building Challenge (ilbi.org), which requires net-zero energy and water consumption, as well as several other prerequisites. The solar system incorporates over 1100 – 235 watt solar modules as well as new leading edge inverter technology that utilizes maximum power point tracking (MPPT) at a string level. "We are very excited to have been involved in this ground breaking installation that now sets the standards for solar power systems in Western Canada" says David Kelly, an owner of SkyFire Energy.

The facility itself contains many classes and shops, but also goes one step further by integrating the systems and technologies that are being taught there since opening this fall . The facility supports a program mix that has a focus on sustainable building technologies and processes, as well as research and development of alternative and renewable sources of energy. Cory Nelmes, a first year student and Financial Co-ordinator for the Okanagan College Students Union, OCSU, added: “When you sit down and realize that the power for the projectors and computers is coming from the sun, and that at times the building will produce more energy than it will use, you appreciate how we can use technology and innovation to address problems.”

About Okanagan College

Okanagan College is a publicly-funded post-secondary institution that offers degree, diploma, certificate and Continuing Studies courses to more than 20,000 people annually. With more than 1,000 employees, it is an organization that has made sustainability one of its key objectives. It is a leader in sustainability in Western Canada. It's Centre of Excellence in Sustainable Building Technologies and Renewable Energy Conservation has been built and will be operated to achieve the Living Building Challenge, which is among the world's most-demanding guidelines for sustainable construction

About SkyFire Energy

SkyFire Energy is one of Canada's largest solar EPC (Engineering, Procurement and Construction) contractors with over 80 grid-tie photovoltaic systems operating throughout Western Canada and Ontario. They add this system installation to their impressive portfolio which also includes the largest installation in Alberta. Their customers include all levels of government, commercial and industrial businesses, homebuilders and residential owners. Their staff includes professional engineers, photovoltaic technicians, and experienced installation crews allowing them to provide turnkey solutions all the way from design through to installation and commissioning.

Press Inquiries:

Contact: Tim Schulhauser

Tel: 403-251-0668

Email: Tim@SkyFireEnergy.com

Website: www.SkyFireEnergy.com