



Frequently Asked Questions

THE SOLAR MARKET

1) How large is the solar power market?

Worldwide, the photovoltaics (PV) industry is a \$10 billion market that has experienced remarkable growth – an average of 25 to 30% annually over the past five years alone.

2) How much electricity is generated from solar energy?

Electricity produced by PV systems accounts for a small percentage of power generated worldwide, but it is growing rapidly. In 2006, more than 2 gigawatts (GW) of solar panels were manufactured, an increase of more than 30% over the previous year. Also in 2006, southern Germany for the first time saw solar power make up 1% of the total energy mix. The increasing demand for clean energy is expected to spur continued strong growth worldwide.

3) How does the price of solar power compare to other energy sources?

Since the infancy of the market in the 1970s, extensive research and development has enabled rapid increases in the production of PV products, leading to a sharp reduction in cost. Manufacturing, fuel costs, access to power transmission lines and government subsidies are some of the factors affecting energy prices. With financial incentives available for solar power systems in many areas, the full cost is often recovered over the operating life of a typical PV system.

4) Is there enough silicon available to meet the growing demand for solar panels?

Silicon is made from sand, one of the most abundant raw materials on earth. However, supplies of refined silicon, the primary component of PV cells, are currently limited due to the soaring demand for solar products and a temporary shortage of global refining capacity. Evergreen has secure silicon supply agreements in place to meet the company's current and future manufacturing needs.

5) What role do government subsidies play?

Globally, there are growing concerns about traditional fuels (e.g., oil, gas and coal) including national security, societal and environmental impacts. Over the years, those fuels have benefited from substantial government subsidies. Today, a growing number of national governments are shifting resources into solar energy incentive programs. Germany and several other nations have strong incentive programs to expand their solar power markets. In the U.S., several states – particularly California – have developed viable programs to encourage the growth of renewable energy.

6) Does solar power have uses other than residential and small-scale applications?

Yes, technological advances have advanced the trend toward larger PV systems as big as 40 megawatts (MW) or more. Solar power is now being used in many large commercial applications around the world.

THE COMPANY

7) How large is Evergreen Solar?

Since opening our first commercial-scale production plant in 2001, Evergreen has been one of the fastest growing manufacturers in the industry. 2006 revenues topped \$103 million, up sharply from \$44 million the previous year.

Production will more than double to 100 MW when a second plant in Germany – developed by our joint venture, EverQ – reaches full capacity in 2007. The partners intend to grow EverQ's output to 300 MW by 2010, and we've secured polysilicon supply agreements to facilitate this expansion. Also, Evergreen entered into multi-year sales agreements totaling \$1 billion with several prominent integration and distribution companies since November 2005.

8) Does Evergreen manufacture anything other than solar products?

Solar is our *only* business. This singular focus enables us to remain a global innovation leader in producing high-quality solar wafers, cells and panels for the global market.

9) Is Evergreen part of a bigger corporation or business group?

Founded in 1994, Evergreen is a publicly-traded company listed on the American NASDAQ exchange under the ticker symbol ESLR. We're also part of a strategic joint venture, EverQ GmbH, with two other industry leaders: Q-Cells AG (Germany), the world's largest independent manufacturer of crystalline silicon solar cells, and Renewable Energy Corporation ASA (Norway), the world's largest manufacturer of solar-grade silicon and multicrystalline wafers. All of the solar panels produced by EverQ are exclusively Evergreen-branded.

10) Is Evergreen an international company?

Currently, we have three plants on two continents producing Evergreen-branded solar panels. Our world headquarters and production prototype and manufacturing facility are located in Marlboro, Massachusetts. Our joint venture, EverQ, developed a state of the art production facility in Thalheim, Germany, in 2006. A new, larger plant is scheduled to open and reach full capacity in 2007. Evergreen products are used in commercial and residential applications around the world.

THE TECHNOLOGY

11) What makes String Ribbon technology unique?

String Ribbon™ Technology is based on the natural science of surface tension. Think of the way a child blows a soap bubble. The surface tension between the soapy solution and the ring-shaped wand creates a bubble. This is similar to the way Evergreen Solar makes silicon wafers. The main difference is instead of using a ring-shaped wand, Evergreen Solar uses two parallel wires called strings. When pulled through a silicon melt, the molten silicon spans and solidifies between the strings, creating a long ribbon that is harvested for further processing into solar cells.

Refined silicon is the key material used in solar panels, and its availability is currently limited. While conventional technologies for producing silicon wafers are based on energy-intensive casting, machining and wasteful wire sawing of large silicon blocks — not what you'd expect from a high-tech, clean energy product — String Ribbon™ Technology is genius in its simplicity and efficiency. Not to mention commercially successful, exportable and scaleable.

12) Is Evergreen developing any new technologies?

We're constantly evolving our String Ribbon™ technology in anticipation of continued strong market growth. Currently, our primary focus is on developing second-generation technology to grow four ribbons at the same time. Another key initiative would produce higher efficiency cells and even thinner silicon wafers. Both advances would significantly increase production efficiency and output.