

Dow Corning Opens Solar-Powered Day Care Center in Karde Village

Local Students, Community to Benefit from Solar Energy

Karde, Pune, India– Dow Corning today announced the opening of an anganwadi (daycare center) in the India village of Karde that features a 28-panel solar power system. This system generates enough electricity for cooling fans and proper lighting for the anganwadi and an adjacent school that previously had no power. In addition, Dow Corning arranged to have five solar powered street lights installed to make the village safer for students and residents.

“In the discussions about solar energy, it’s too easy to forget that what we are really talking about is changing people’s lives. Education, safety – that’s what the solar story is about in the village of Karde,” said Jean-Paul Mollie, Dow Corning’s region president for India, South Asia, Middle East and Africa. “The solar power system will provide free, clean solar energy and create an environment far more conducive to learning. We can help these students reach their full potential in the classroom; we can help them create a brighter future.” Approximately 45 children will attend the anganwadi; more than 100 students attend the school.

Tata BP Solar, a local manufacturer of solar systems and a Dow Corning customer, manufactured and installed the system. The solar panels contain silicon-based materials developed and manufactured by Dow Corning.

“This is a great example of the power of silicone chemistry to enhance lives around the world,” said Eric Peeters, Dow Corning’s global executive director for the solar market business unit. “Silicon-based materials play a key role in producing solar devices that perform well for decades, even with exposure to extreme conditions. For the children of Karde, that means a better chance to fulfill their dreams - having electricity in the classroom and daycare center and safer streets for years to come.”

One of the only companies in the world able to provide silicon-based solutions throughout the entire photovoltaic value chain, Dow Corning is investing to expand its portfolio of total solution packages for solar cell manufacturing, module assembly and installation. Solution packages are built on high-performance silicone products such as [encapsulants](#), adhesives, [coatings](#), [potting agents](#) and [sealants](#), as well as [next-generation solar grade silicon](#).

The company’s long-term commitment to sustainability and to providing solutions along the entire solar value chain is demonstrated by the more than \$5 billion in investments it has announced over the past five years. Those investments include working to expand polycrystalline silicon capacity by 90 percent within the next four years; construction of its first facility to produce high purity monosilanes – the key raw material used in the production of thin-film solar cells and liquid crystal displays; and the opening of a Solar Solutions Application Center in Michigan and announcement of a second center in Korea at which it work with customers to develop, evaluate, and pilot materials solutions used to manufacture solar panels.

About the Anganwadis

Dow Corning has been working closely with villages around the company’s manufacturing

facility in Ranjangaon, Pune to construct anganwadis. Local government bodies will run the anganwadi, which provide mothers, infants and children of up to age six with education, nutrition and healthcare.

About Dow Corning

Dow Corning <http://www.dowcorning.com> provides performance-enhancing solutions to serve the diverse needs of more than 25,000 customers worldwide. A global leader in silicones, silicon-based technology and innovation, Dow Corning offers more than 7,000 products and services via the company's *Dow Corning*[®] and *XIAMETER*[®] brands. Dow Corning is a joint venture equally owned by The Dow Chemical Company and Corning, Incorporated. More than half of Dow Corning's annual sales are outside the United States.

About Tata BP Solar

Tata BP Solar is a joint venture of Tata Power and BP Solar - manufacturing solar cells, solar panels, as well as delivering solar solutions to the end customer. Their manufacturing facilities are the largest of their kind in the country. The company has supplied solar energy systems that provided energy to more than 7 million people in the Indian sub continent for applications such as village lighting, water pumping and telecommunications.