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Fraunhofer CSE Announces Leadership Changes

Boston, MA – November 11, 2013 – The Fraunhofer Center for Sustainable Energy Systems (CSE) has announced the appointment of Dr. Christian Hoepfner, the Center's current Scientific Director, to Center Director. Dr. Hoepfner succeeds Mr. Nolan Browne, who founded the Center in 2008 and has served as its Managing Director since that time. Mr. Browne has resigned to join Plotly, a start-up firm working at the intersection of energy data visualization, analytics, R&D, and policy, as their new Chief Business Officer. The transition is effective immediately.

"Fraunhofer CSE is a brick and mortar example of the clean energy innovation that is happening right here in Massachusetts. We're a proud supporter of the center and Nolan's work to establish it as a center of excellence in sustainable energy systems in the United States. We're looking forward to continuing our partnership with Christian. We congratulate them both on their new roles," said Massachusetts Clean Energy Center CEO Alicia Barton.

Dr. Hoepfner brings a diverse set of research and business skills as well as an established track record of business success to the Center Director role. In his previous position as Fraunhofer CSE's Scientific Director, Dr. Hoepfner oversaw the Photovoltaic Technologies, Building Energy Technology, and Distributed Electrical Energy Systems research groups as well as Fraunhofer CSE's TechBridge Program, a commercialization model that leverages the worldwide Fraunhofer research network to support early-stage energy startups.

Before joining Fraunhofer CSE, Dr. Hoepfner worked for 10 years at various start-up companies in the Boston area, most recently as Vice President of Product Marketing and Management at Luminus Devices, where he was responsible for the successful commercialization of Luminus' high power light emitting diodes into the consumer electronics industry, and for introducing energy-efficient lighting products into energy savings markets. He received his PhD from the Free University Berlin, Germany, for work in thin film photovoltaics.

Over the past five years, Fraunhofer CSE has grown from a small start-up into a national leader in sustainable energy systems research and development serving a wide range of industrial clients from start-ups to Fortune 500 firms. Said Browne, "With a strong and experienced senior staff of applied scientists and engineers, the Center is well positioned to help American

industry to commercialize, build, deploy and export leading energy generation, distribution, and efficiency products now and into the future."

Said Hoepfner, "Over the past five years, Nolan Browne has accomplished the seemingly impossible – raising the funding for and rallying the support of many stakeholders in government and industry – to transform Fraunhofer CSE from a simple idea launched in the basement of a laboratory at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology into a bricks and mortar example of a world-class R&D organization. I would like to congratulate Nolan and wish him the best in his future endeavors."

In 2013, Fraunhofer CSE moved into a state-of-the-art facility – known as the Building Technology Showcase (BTS) – in Boston's Innovation District. To bring the BTS from vision to reality, the Center enlisted the support of dozens of manufacturers and other partners from the buildings and construction industries, who donated energy-efficient services, systems, and materials to the effort.

"I was thrilled to welcome Nolan Browne and Fraunhofer to our Innovation Center two and a half years ago. Under Nolan's leadership, Fraunhofer's presence in Boston has strengthened Boston's status as a clean technology leader," said Mayor Thomas M. Menino. "I would like to wish Christian Hoepfner the best of luck as he follows in Nolan's footsteps and continues to advance Fraunhofer's work as an internationally-recognized research organization."

In 2012, Fraunhofer CSE was awarded a 5-year, $11.7 million project award from the US Department of Energy's (DOE) SunShot Initiative, a collaborative national effort to make solar energy cost-competitive with other forms of energy by the end of the decade. The Center's research project focuses on the development of "plug and play" solar photovoltaic (PV) systems that can be purchased, installed, and connected by homeowners without the need to engage outside consultants or contractors. This project is part of a larger $21 million DOE investment aimed at developing technology solutions that reduce the "soft" costs of residential solar PV systems – the non-module hardware costs that now account for a majority of the total cost of residential systems, and represent a significant barrier to wider adoption of solar power in the United States.

About Fraunhofer CSE

The Fraunhofer Center for Sustainable Energy Systems (CSE) is a not-for-profit applied R&D laboratory dedicated to the commercialization of technologies for a sustainable energy future. CSE engages in collaborative research with private companies, government entities, and academic institutions, and works with sustainable energy startups to help develop their technologies, bridging the gap from laboratory to production. Fraunhofer CSE is a subsidiary of Fraunhofer USA, a 501(c)(3) non-profit contract R&D organization, affiliated with Fraunhofer Gesellschaft, Europe's largest contract R&D organization.