



## Press Release

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## HelioSphera Inauguration

### Future Technology Available Today

**HelioSphera** (formally known as Next Solar) officially **inaugurated** its state-of-the-art plant in Tripoli, on June 19<sup>th</sup> 2009; the **plant** is specialized in producing thin-film photovoltaic panels, using Oeriklon's Micromorph technology and is **the largest in Europe** in its kind.

The main activity of HelioSphera is the production of thin-film photovoltaic panels with an annual capacity of 60 MW. **The 185 million euro investment**, one of the biggest private investments in this country of the past decade, is subsidized by 29.879.500 Euros as it was included in the Developmental Bill that was voted into law by the plenary of the Greek Parliament.

This state-of-the-art plant covers an area of 27.000 m<sup>2</sup>, with the production area taking up 17.000 m<sup>2</sup>. In addition, the fully automated Clean Room of 1.500 m<sup>2</sup> constitutes one of Europe's largest and by far the biggest in Greece. Production is entirely eco-friendly as no toxic dangerous elements for the environment are used.

The plant was inaugurated by the Minister of Economy and Finance Mr. Yannis Papathanasiou, while Bishop of Mantinea & Kynourea Alexandros gave his blessing. Also present were the Under Secretary of National Education and Religious Affairs, Mr Andreas Lykourantzou, the General Secretary of the Peloponnese Mr Nikolaos Aggelopoulos, the

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Prefect of Arcadia Mr. Dimitrios Konstantopoulos, the Mayor of Tripoli Mr. Alexandros Kotsianis and members of the local political leadership.

The building of the plant took place with remarkable speed and high safety standards, with Heliosphera completing the project in a record time. This was achieved through strong engagement from the project contractors as well as partner companies and suppliers.

«We are deeply committed to taking full advantage of the micromorph technology's potential and participating actively in the development of the Greek and European photovoltaic industry while at the same time **contributing to the European Commission's Action Plan for Energy Efficiency until 2020**. HelioSphera is also committed to sustainable development and to the highest standards of Corporate Social Responsibility. As an example, **our company's inauguration day has been the first zero- impact event ever run in Greece, with respect to the environment**. To this purpose, HelioSphera is sponsoring a program led by the experimental junior high school of Tripolis. The pupils of the school will be planting trees to neutralize the CO2 generated by this event», **said Mr. Thierry Bodirot, CEO of HelioSphera**.

Board Chairman George Fakidis and Plainfield Asset Management CEO Panos Ninios both addressed invited guests during the inauguration ceremony. Plainfield Asset Management is Heliosphera's majority shareholder.

Heliosphera is planning a customers' event in its Tripoli premises in October to celebrate the first commercialization of its products. Partners, clients and the local community will be invited to attend and participate.