



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: **December 12, 2007**

CONTACT: Chris Park
Communications
(206) 325-1573, x132
cpark@3tiergroup.com

CONTACT: Joanna Burke, APCO Worldwide
(206) 239-0164
jburke@apcoworldwide.com

3TIER introduces Firstlook Solar Assessment

Web-based tool to accelerate development of solar energy sites

SEATTLE – 3TIER today launched Firstlook Solar Assessment, a web-based tool that makes it faster, easier and more cost-effective for developers to discover potential solar project sites in North America with pinpoint precision. With just two clicks, Firstlook Solar not only provides developers with instant access to the National Solar Radiation Data Base (NSRDB), but relays the highly technical data in an easy-to-use, understandable format.

“Before Firstlook, solar developers and consultants had to spend considerable time and money on technical experts capable of wading through and interpreting volumes of data regarding potential solar energy sites,” said Kenneth Westrick, founder and CEO of 3TIER.

“Firstlook Solar eliminates that costly first step,” he said. “This powerful and innovative tool delivers technical information straight to the user through an easy-to-use web interface. Now anyone can use this assessment tool and receive a thorough, cost-effective power resource report delivered to a laptop within minutes.”

Highlights of Firstlook Solar include:

- The dataset is based on satellite observations at a 10 km resolution over the contiguous United States developed by Dr. Richard Perez from SUNY Albany. This data set is part of the NSRDB developed and distributed by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL).
- The online tool gives users a free, instantaneous value for the annual average direct normal, global horizontal and diffuse irradiance.
- The Firstlook Solar Assessment report gives users the values for monthly solar irradiance, diurnal variability and hourly distribution information as well as a data file with the complete hourly time series of global horizontal, direct and diffuse irradiance values for the period 1998-2005. The solar zenith and azimuth angles to each hourly value are also included to facilitate further analysis.
- Assessment reports can be generated via the internet 24 hours a day, 365 days a year at www.firstlook.3tiergroup.com.

“In June 2007, 3TIER launched Firstlook Wind, also a web-based tool that provides fast, cost-effective, thorough wind and power resource assessments,” said 3TIER executive vice president Brian Reidy. “Since then, people have been using the tool to better understand the value of their wind energy. Because 3TIER’s expertise cuts across all the weather-driven renewables, Firstlook Solar was the logical next step.”

“With the rapidly expanding solar market, developers are looking for the quickest way to find information about potential project sites as well as how to maximize their system’s energy production,” added Reidy. “Without a doubt, Firstlook Solar provides the smartest, easiest way to do that.”

About 3TIER

Founded in 1999, Seattle-based 3TIER is the largest independent provider of wind, solar and hydro energy assessment and power forecasting worldwide. People around the world turn to 3TIER when they want the best scientific information to make decisions about their renewable energy projects—from the prospecting stage to operations. For more information, visit www.3tiergroup.com.

###