

Driving forward sustainable energy solutions: VDE Group strengthens presence in the USA

- **RETC, a VDE Group company, acquires SolarPTL, strengthening its leading in the testing and certification of renewable energy products and systems**
- **Clients can access a broader range of testing solutions under one roof**

(Fremont, California/Frankfurt a. M., March 18, 2024) The VDE Group is expanding its offering in the field of testing and certification of products in the area of renewable energy systems. The Renewable Energy Test Center (RETC), part of the VDE Group, is acquiring SolarPTL, a globally recognized independent PV testing laboratory in the USA. Founded in 1992 in Tempe, Arizona, SolarPTL is a pioneering company in the PV certification industry in the United States. The acquisition brings together the two companies' extensive expertise: While RETC has an outstanding reputation in performance evaluation and hail damage risk assessment of solar modules, among other things, SolarPTL is a trailblazer in the field of quality and performance testing of photovoltaic solutions and their exposure to weathering.

Synergy effects in research and development

VDE CEO Ansgar Hinz: "For over 130 years, VDE has stood for the highest quality of standards. As an independent technology organization, we use our experience and our network to promote sustainable energy solutions and accelerate innovation in this field. The collaboration between RETC and SolarPTL promotes joint research and development efforts that will lead to breakthroughs in testing methods and efficiency improvements for investors and operators. It also brings us even closer to our customers' power plant projects."

The combined company will become a thought leader in renewable energy testing and certification in North America and beyond. Cherif Kedir, CEO of RETC: "The acquisition marks an expansion of RETC's certification services and strengthens its position as a trusted partner

for manufacturers, installers and project developers. With locations in California, Nevada and Arizona, RETC significantly expands its national footprint to better reach customers throughout the United States. They benefit from streamlined processes, competitive costs, and a consistently high quality of service unlocked by this partnership."

CEO Cherif Kedir guarantees the seamless integration of SolarPTL into the RETC family, ensuring a smooth transition for existing customers.

About RETC

RETC (Renewable Energy Test Center) is a leading provider of engineering services and certification testing for renewable energy products. Since its founding in 2009, RETC has partnered with manufacturers, developers, and investors to test a wide range of products, including solar photovoltaic (PV) modules, racking, trackers, power electronics, and battery energy storage systems (BESSs). At our accredited laboratories around the world, we evaluate products using only the latest testing standards and industry-accepted methods. Headquartered in Fremont, California, RETC puts customers at the forefront by bringing value to research and development, bankability assessments, and market entry. We are united with our customers in the belief that our work enables a safer and more sustainable world.

As a member of the VDE Group, the RETC team will make an increasingly important contribution to VDE's testing and certification services. RETC's testing capabilities will also be expanded to serve a larger volume of projects and customers.

More information at www.retc-ca.com

About VDE

VDE, one of the largest technology organizations in Europe, has been regarded as a synonym for innovation and technological progress for more than 130 years. VDE is the only organization in the world that combines science, standardization, testing, certification, and application consulting under one umbrella. The VDE mark has been synonymous with the highest safety standards and consumer protection for more than 100 years.

Our passion is the advancement of technology, the next generation of engineers and technologists, and lifelong learning and career development "on the job". Within the VDE network more than 2,000 employees at over 60 locations worldwide, more than 100,000 honorary experts, and around 1,500 companies are dedicated to ensuring a future worth living: networked, digital, electrical. Shaping the e-dialistic future.

The VDE (VDE Association for Electrical, Electronic & Information Technologies) is headquartered in Frankfurt am Main. For more information, visit www.vde.com

Press contact: Cherif Kedir, cherif@retc-ca.com

European Press: Vanessa Rothe, Phone +49 170 7645316, presse@vde.com