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NEWS RELEASE

MARKET LEADERS JOIN FORCES TO MEET RISING DEMAND FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY

One of the world's most successful wind energy businesses, UK based Renewable Energy Systems Group (RES), has purchased a stake in three of the country's top renewable energy companies as part of its strategy to lead the growing market in renewable energy technologies for buildings.

Wood Energy Ltd is the UK's foremost provider of wood-fired boilers and has installed over 21,000kW of biomass boiler capacity in over 80 locations across the country, including schools and colleges.

EarthEnergy Limited brings more than thirty years' experience in geothermal energy technology and has provided ground source heat pump systems for over 1,000 buildings across the UK. EarthEnergy has been instrumental in the current upsurge of interest in geothermal heating and cooling.

PV Systems Ltd is the major manufacturer and supplier of building-integrated commercial and domestic photovoltaic (PV) systems in the UK, with over 800 installations to date. Providing roofs, curtain walls, atria, and street furniture, PV Systems has a client list that includes blue chip multinationals, government, construction and domestic clients.

Dr Ian Mays, CEO of RES Group, said

"There is huge and rising demand from housing and commercial property developers, industrial sites, the education and health sectors, to name but a few, for renewable energy technologies that can meet their needs for heat and power in a low carbon way, while providing on-site security of supply and protection from future fuel price rises. These deals will enable RES to help facilitate the growth of these vitally important future energy industries and to be at the forefront of this exciting market."

Reducing carbon emissions from energy generation and buildings is a major part of the UK's strategy to tackle climate change. RES's parent company, Sir Robert McAlpine, is a leading player in the construction industry and keen to meet the demand for low carbon energy solutions from its clients.

Dr Robin Cotton of Wood Energy said: *"Wood Energy Ltd is delighted to join forces with RES. The potential for biomass heating in the UK and Ireland is vast and this agreement will help Wood Energy Ltd to accelerate its growth plans to meet the current and future demand, ensuring solutions of the highest quality."*

Brian Kennelly of EarthEnergy said: *"EarthEnergy's unrivalled experience and expertise, built up over 12 years of installing ground source heat pump systems in the UK, makes us the design and construct installer of choice for both housing and non-domestic clients nationwide. The association with RES and Sir Robert McAlpine will enable us to drive growth in the market, transforming it from a 'cottage industry' to commercial scale, offering mainstream heating solutions"*.

Bruce Cross, Managing Director and founder of PV Systems said: *“Solar electricity has the potential to provide power for every new building. The UK industry is predicted to follow the same expansion as in Germany where it has grown one hundredfold in 5 years. Having been in the industry for 25 years we have the R&D capability, the manufacturing capacity, and the design and installation experience to provide the solutions required for this fast growing market. We look forward to working with RES to achieve this.”*

Mark Candlish, who heads RES's new Heat and Power Division, commented on why RES has joined with leading technology specialists. *“This deal brings together the unrivalled skills and experience of four leading renewable energy technology specialists and the strength and reputation in the construction industry of Sir Robert McAlpine. The partnership will ensure that the skill base for these exciting, renewable and reliable technologies can grow with the rapid rise in demand from the UK's building developers and utilities for low-carbon heat, power and cooling. By offering a choice of technologies, and with a reputation for engineering excellence, RES can play a leading role in bringing building-integrated renewables to the forefront of UK energy policy.”*

ENDS

Notes to Editors:

1. The Renewable Energy Systems Group (RES) is one of the world's leading wind energy companies, with offices across the UK and around the world and several gigawatts of wind power capacity on its books at various stages of development. It is the UK's largest independent wind energy developer and part of the UK's Sir Robert McAlpine group of construction and engineering companies. The RES Group has to date completed over 1,500MW of wind power capacity worldwide. RES is a holder of the Queen's Award for Enterprise for its commitment to renewable energy and RES and Sir Robert McAlpine are sponsors of the London Climate Change Agency. For more information, visit www.res-group.com.
2. Wood Energy Ltd (www.woodenergyltd.co.uk) is the leading provider of fully-automatic biomass solutions in the UK and Ireland. It has some of the largest and highest-profile installations across the UK and Ireland including the Welsh National Assembly Buildings and with current projects including the first prison installation in the UK and a large retail centre in Dublin. Wood Energy Ltd is an *Ashden Awards for Sustainable Energy UK 2007* finalist (www.ashdenawards.org).
3. EarthEnergy™ Limited is the UK's leading Geothermal Energy company, specialising in Ground Source Heat Pump systems to provide renewable heating and cooling for buildings across the country. A ground source heat pump is one of the most cost effective ways to significantly reduce a building's carbon footprint. EarthEnergy™ systems are suitable for both domestic and commercial installations, from 3kW to multiple megawatts. A domestic EarthEnergy™ System can be used to provide both hot water and heating. This technology is reliable, sustainable and can reduce heating energy consumption by up to 75%. The company has been installing non-domestic EarthEnergy™ Systems in schools, offices, health centres, visitor centres and various other buildings since 1995. www.earthenergy.co.uk
4. PV Systems is part of Energy Equipment Testing Service Ltd (EETS) and grew from a University spin out a decade ago. Its 25 year track record of research and implementation of solar energy gives a unique and unrivalled presence in the industry. PV Systems designed and installed the first PV roof in the UK in 1995, the first PV curtain wall on the BRE office of the future in 1997 and has completed many landmark buildings in the DTI field trials during the last decade. The thin film CIS PV façade on the Optic Technium won a EuroSolar Award for PV architecture. For more information, visit www.pvsystems.com
5. The EU has set a target of 20% of energy from renewable sources by 2020 and the Government's Energy Review published on 22 May reinforced its commitment to renewable energy. The UK heat and power markets are currently worth £20 billion per annum each.

6. CASE STUDIES:

- IKEA distribution centre, Peterborough – one of the first large-scale ground source heat pump installations in the UK. 8 kilometres of underground pipework buried underneath the car park extracts heat from the ground to provide heating and cooling with low CO2 emissions. System provided by **EarthEnergy**.
- Project Voltaic, Dagenham – ground source system delivers the entire building's heating and cooling for this large new distribution centre for Gazeley, which is also powered by solar PV. As a result, the CO2 footprint of the building has been reduced by up to 60%. System provided by **EarthEnergy**
- Guys Marsh Prison, North Dorset - the first biomass boiler in a UK prison,. The 150kW Binder boiler provides heat for the training workshops using locally-sourced wood chips. A fraction of the cost of electric heating, it will save over 100 tonnes of CO2 emissions a year. System provided by **Wood Energy**.
- District heating system, Ceredigion County Council - Biomass heating and hot water for a primary school, residential home, 4,400m2 of office accommodation, sheltered housing and 30 self-contained flats. Estimated annual savings of 400 tonnes of CO2 and £21,000 (42%). Winner of Consortium of Local Authorities Wales Sustainability Award 2006. System provided by **Wood Energy**.
- PV Canopy at Woking Station - Semi transparent PV glass canopy of over 700 sq.m. at a height of 10m above the bus stops and public square at the entrance to Woking railway station. The system provides 73kWp and feeds into the 'private wire' council electricity system. PV designed and installed by **PV Systems**.
- PV Façade for the Optic Technium at St Asaph, North Wales – A landmark Thin Film PV façade of 1100 sq.m. providing 80kWp electricity. This feeds power into the building which houses start-up businesses in the opto-electronic field. Provides 10% of the initial electricity requirement of the building. Recipient of Eurosolar award for solar architecture. System designed and installed by **PV Systems**.

PHOTOS OF ALL OF THE ABOVE CASE STUDIES ARE AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

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