

# Groundbreaking Held For Advent Solar Building

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## LEED Certified Facility Planned with 21st Century Features

ALBUQUERQUE, NM—Groundbreaking ceremonies were held today for the 87,596 square-foot new home of Albuquerque-based Advent Solar, Inc. The ceremony marked the beginning of construction of the Advent Solar research, development and manufacturing plant, the first structure to be built at Mesa del Sol.

The manufacturing plant is designed with 13,313 square feet of dedicated office space and the manufacturing segment will comprise 74,283 square feet. The building has been designed and will be built so that an additional story can be added to the office component at a later date.

The one-story LEED<sup>\*</sup> certified designed building will have offices as well as space dedicated to the manufacture of Advent Solar's breakthrough emitter wrap-through back contact photovoltaic cells and panels. Advent Solar's headquarters will feature use of their own solar panels for electric power generation. It will be built using concrete tilt construction, which contains a high percentage of recycled materials. There will be a focus on the use of daylight and low emitting materials in the construction. Skylights and large overhead glass doors will light the manufacturing spaces.

The cost for the building is \$6 million with the core and shell to be completed by June 2006. The entire structure will be completed by third quarter 2006 with Advent Solar expected to move in before the end of the year. Forest City Covington will retain title to the building and Advent Solar has pledged to lease the building for several years.

The grounds will feature accommodations for multiple bicycle riders and designated parking for hybrid fuel vehicles. All landscaping will be xeriscaped and will feature a cistern for water harvesting and efficient irrigation.

“Today is an exciting day, because the expansion of this company is tangible evidence of a stronger movement toward renewable energy sources in this country,” said U.S. Senator Pete Domenici (R-NM). “This building exemplifies the ideal of an energy efficient facility. The technology commercially offered by Advent is a direct result of research done at Sandia National Laboratories and is another example of the powerful synergy that is driving economic development in New Mexico.”

"The building will be energy efficient, featuring a number of 21st century innovations, such as high efficiency HVAC units and low flow plumbing fixtures, that will be used to reduce the consumption of natural resources," said Senator Jeff Bingaman (D-NM).

"To get here today, to see the beginning of the construction for this 21st Century building is exciting and gratifying," said U.S. Rep. Heather Wilson (R-NM). "I worked in Congress for the federal road funding that will support exactly this kind of economic growth. Advent Solar's building is the culmination of efforts of many, many people from the public and the private sectors all working together."

"Governor Richardson and I are especially proud of Advent Solar's decision to stay in Albuquerque, which represents one of the largest venture capital deals in New Mexico history," Lt. Governor Diane Denish said. "Advent Solar is a leader in renewable energy and I hope that this is the first of many such companies to build and expand here. While this is a good project for Albuquerque and Bernalillo County, the entire state of New Mexico will benefit from the jobs created by Advent Solar."

"The Advent Solar Building will set the tone for all of the economic development activities at Mesa del Sol," said Michael Daly, chief operating officer of Forest City Covington, the master developer of Mesa del Sol. "It will have a number of sustainable features we hope to duplicate throughout Mesa del Sol. It's the lynchpin for our planned solar cluster."

"This building is a dream come true," said Russell Schmit, president of Advent Solar. "We chose Mesa del Sol because they have room for us to expand, and we expect to expand pretty aggressively in the next few years. Second, they have actively targeted solar companies for the area. Third, the timing was right."

Advent currently produces its photovoltaic cells at a manufacturing line located in the University of New Mexico's Manufacturing Technology and Training Center. They were assisted through the donation of a diffusion furnace donated by Intel to NextGen. NextGen made the furnace available to Advent Solar. The solar cells can be produced at a significantly lower cost than for other conventional solar technology.

The Albuquerque-based architectural firm of Architects Dekker/Perich/Sabatini designed the Advent Solar building to achieve LEED Certification for both the core and tenant improvements. Klinger Constructors, LLC is the general contractor. They will implement practices to reduce off-site silting through uncontrolled run-off, and separation of construction waste for further recycling. The building's subcontractors will be Chaparral Electric, Yearout Mechanical, Bridgers & Paxton and JTC Painting.

Mesa del Sol is a community designed for Albuquerque's south mesa, south of the Sunport. Mesa del Sol will be a community where history and tradition meet the 21st Century. Combining job creation and sustainable urban community planning, Mesa del Sol will reflect a balance of environmental resources, economic objectives and social amenities in a community that is forward-looking with a highly defined sense of place.

Mesa del Sol will be a true public/private partnership. In addition to Forest City Covington, NM, LLC, Mesa del Sol will be developed in conjunction with other partners, including the New Mexico State Land Office, the University of New Mexico, with the support of the City of Albuquerque, Bernalillo County and the State of New Mexico.

\* The LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Green Building Rating System is a voluntary, consensus-based national standard for developing high-performance, sustainable buildings. Members of the U.S. Green Building Council represent all segments of the building industry.