

U.S. Rep. Petri visits, tours Orion Energy Systems facility

Congressman Petri a strong supporter of manufacturing, cap and trade program

MANITOWOC, Wis. — Oct. 24, 2008 — U.S. Rep. Thomas Petri on Wednesday toured Orion Energy Systems' Manitowoc, Wis., manufacturing facility.

Orion Energy Systems (Nasdaq: OESX) is a leading power technology enterprise that designs, manufactures and implements energy management systems, consisting primarily of high-performance, energy-efficient lighting systems, controls and direct renewable products for commercial and industrial customers.

Congressman Petri, R-Fond du Lac, has long been a champion of manufacturing in Wisconsin and is very supportive of Orion.

“Companies like Orion — which are expanding, creating jobs and have a strong track record of innovation — are what Wisconsin needs to compete in the global economy,” Congressman Petri said.

Recently, Orion announced it will expand its Manitowoc factory, creating 170 jobs for workers in the region. In addition to the additional jobs, the expansion will allow more energy-saving products to reach the market, which will continue to reduce the emission of toxic, greenhouse gases and protect the environment.

“We appreciate Congressman Petri’s strong support, which validates what we’re doing for energy efficiency, direct renewable technology, and the revitalization of manufacturing in Manitowoc,” Verfuether said. “We’re proud to be in Manitowoc, where the workforce is second to none.”

In July, Orion was featured in a Wall Street Journal article regarding Manitowoc’s resurgence of the manufacturing sector after a major company moved to Mexico in 2003, leaving thousands jobless.

Congressman Petri also has supported the idea of a cap and trade program in the United States to help limit greenhouse gas emissions, create economic opportunities and advance U.S. competitiveness. A cap and trade program sets emission limits for toxic energy production byproducts like carbon dioxide, sulfur dioxide and nitrous oxide.

A cap and trade program would allow businesses to sell unused emission allowances to other businesses that are having difficulty complying with limits.

Earlier this year, Orion completed a sale of 2,000 tons of carbon dioxide credits on the Chicago Climate Exchange. Orion is a staunch supporter of a cap and trade program and often advocates for such a program.

Congressman Petri represents Wisconsin's 6th district, which includes Manitowoc County.

Orion has deployed its energy management systems in 3,762 facilities across North America. Since 2001, Orion technology has displaced more than 357 megawatts, saving customers more than \$401 million and reducing indirect carbon dioxide emissions by 3.6 million tons.

About Orion Energy Systems Inc.

Orion Energy Systems Inc. (Nasdaq: OESX) is a leading power technology enterprise that designs, manufactures and implements energy management systems, consisting primarily of high-performance, energy-efficient lighting systems, controls and related services for commercial and industrial customers without compromising their quantity or quality of light. For more information, visit www.oriones.com.

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