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GE building \$600M solar plant

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[General Electric](#) today announced it is building a \$600 million-plus plant that will manufacture solar panels. The company said the the factory will be the largest in the solar manufacturing plant in the country.

A spokesman said no location has been selected yet, but GE said an announcement will be made soon. Arizona economic developers are likely to throw the state's hat into the ring during the site selection process.

"We are addressing the biggest barrier for the mainstream adoption of solar technology—cost—and the NREL [National Renewable Energy Lab] certification proves that we are on track to deliver the most affordable solutions to customers," said **Victor Abate**, vice president of GE's renewable energy business, which is headquartered in Schenectady, N.Y.

The 400-megawatt plant would make enough panels a year to power 80,000 homes annually.

GE also reported its thin film solar panel has been certified as the most efficient ever publicly reported. That panel was produced on the PrimeStar Solar Inc. 30-megawatt manufacturing line in Arvada, Colo. GE recently completed the acquisition of PrimeStar, a thin film solar technology company. GE has held a majority equity stake in the company since 2008.

"Our plan is to open a U.S. solar manufacturing facility further demonstrates our confidence in this technology and is just the first phase of in a global, multi-gigawatt roadmap," Abate said. "We're not only excited by the efficiency milestone, but also by the speed at which our team was able to achieve it and the innovation runway for future improvements in this technology."

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