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Maryland Seeks Partners in First-of-its-Kind Initiative to Jumpstart Large-Scale Renewable Energy Projects

The State of Maryland, in partnership with the University of Maryland, today announced a new initiative to spur large-scale, commercial renewable energy projects in the state. Called "Generating Clean Horizons", Maryland is teaming up with county, university, and municipal partners to use their combined market power to jumpstart new commercial renewable energy projects. Toward this end, Maryland issued a request for proposals today offering long-term power purchase agreements to clean energy developers that can place renewable power on the grid in Maryland by 2014.

"Our State is a leader in clean energy, and Generating Clean Horizons is one more step towards a Smart, Green and Growing Maryland," remarked Governor O'Malley. "With the combined resources of strategic public and private partnerships, we will continue to bring more green jobs to our communities and lead by example for other States."

Generating Clean Horizons is another step toward achieving the ambitious energy goals established by the O'Malley-Brown Administration. Last year, Governor O'Malley successfully championed the EmPOWER Maryland Act, which aims to reduce energy consumption 15% by 2015, and more than doubled Maryland's renewable portfolio standard to require that utilities purchase 20% of their power from clean energy sources by 2022.

"This is an exciting opportunity for a new kind of clean energy collaboration in Maryland," noted MEA Director Malcolm Woolf. "We hope to leverage the state's own electricity needs with clean energy developers' desire for long term contracts to reduce capital costs. The tremendous level of interest from public and private entities demonstrates that Marylanders are ready to embrace greener solutions to our energy challenges."

Interested parties should attend the information session taking place on March 2, 2009 from 1pm to 3pm at the Miller Senate Office Building, Conference Center Room West II, in Annapolis, Maryland. The request for proposals is also available online at http://ebidmarketplace.com/publicVenSolreview.asp?doc=UoMSO250057&fyr=2009&chg=00008&doc_dept

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