

# First Solar Production Facility in Acadiana

By Louisiana Economic Development

IBERIA PARISH—First Solar, the largest solar energy manufacturer in the Western Hemisphere, announced it has selected Acadiana Regional Airport as the site of its fifth American manufacturing facility. The company said it will invest up to \$1.1 billion in the facility, which will produce high-performance photovoltaic (PV) solar modules. The project is expected to be complete in the first half of 2026.

The company expects to create more than seven hundred new direct jobs with a total annual payroll of at least \$40 million. It is believed to be the largest single capital investment in the area's history.

"First Solar's selection of Iberia Parish for its newest solar panel production facility leaves no doubt that Louisiana is leading the global energy transition, and creating good-paying jobs as a result," Governor John Bel Edwards said. "This massive investment and the jobs it will create are a huge win for the people of Acadiana and the entire state. It is proof positive that Louisiana's 'all-of-the-above' approach to energy is growing

and diversifying our economy. Thank you to everyone who made this day a reality, and a special thank you to First Solar for trusting Louisiana to be part of their mission to create a more sustainable future."

The Acadiana facility will be built on an LED Certified Site, meaning it has gone through extensive due diligence and studies to be declared development-ready. It will produce First Solar's Series 7 modules, which are expected to be manufactured with one hundred percent United States-made components.

"We are pleased to partner with Louisiana as we lean into our commitment to creating enduring value for America by expanding our solar manufacturing footprint and the domestic value chains that enable it," said First Solar Chief Executive Officer Mark Widmar. "As we evaluated our options, Louisiana's ability to deliver the talent we need stood out, thanks to its extensive workforce development initiatives and the presence of academic institutions such as the University of Louisiana at Lafayette which now features a world-class solar energy lab. In bringing our unique,



fully vertically integrated solar manufacturing model to Louisiana, we expect the plant to mirror the commitment to 'Responsible Solar' evident at every First Solar manufacturing facility, which are among the cleanest, safest, and most diverse

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### SOUTHEAST EVENTS FOR YOUR BUSINESS

**2023**

8(a) Orientation and SAM Registration Webinar  
Wednesday, August 16, 2023, 9:30 am–10:30 am CDT Online  
Main Sponsor(s): US Small Business Administration  
Contact: SBA Illinois District Office, 312-353-4528, [illinois.do@sba.gov](mailto:illinois.do@sba.gov)  
Fee: Free; registration required

Join the Small Business Administration (SBA) Illinois District Office for a virtual workshop providing an overview of the 8(a) Business Development program, eligibility requirements, and program benefits. Also learn how to increase your potential for federal contract opportunities through System for Award Management (SAM) registration, including information that you need for the registration process. SBA presenters will offer additional tips, address FAQs, give directions on where to get further assistance, and answer your other questions. To register for this free webinar, visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/8a-orientation-sam-registration-tickets-518989961947>

Federal Contracting: Woman-Owned Small Business (WOSB) Program Webinar  
Thursday, August 17, 2023, 9:00 am–10:00 am CDT Online  
Main Sponsor(s): US Small Business Administration  
Contact: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/welcome-to-wosb-webinar-tickets-482397041537>  
Fee: Free; registration required  
Welcome to the WOSB webinar series! Are you a woman owner of a small business? The federal government's goal is to award at least five percent of all federal contracting dollars to woman-owned small businesses each year. Join us for training on how to register for SBA's Woman-Owned Small Business (WOSB) program, which helps eligible small businesses to qualify for federal contracting opportunities. The monthly sessions will include an overview of the self-certification process, as well as a discussion of the NAICS codes that qualify as WOSB or EDWOSB. Register for this free webinar at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/welcome-to-wosb-webinar-tickets-482397041537>

Selling to the Federal Government Webinar  
Thursday, August 24, 2023, 12:00 pm–3:00 pm CDT Online  
Main Sponsor(s): US Small Business Administration  
Contact: George Tapia, 610-382-3086, [george.tapia@sba.gov](mailto:george.tapia@sba.gov)  
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### CERTIFICATION

Small Business Exchange, Inc. is DBE certified by the Louisiana UCP.

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