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June 23, 2008

Harald A. Oye, Professor Emeritus
Chairman of Silicon for Chemical
and Solar Industry Conference
Norwegian University of Science and Technology
Department of Materials Science and Engineering
Trondheim, Norway

Re: Timminco's intervention in the Silicon for Chemical and Solar Industry IX, 2008

Dear Mr. Oye:

I am in receipt of your note, which is attached hereto. As a prominent solar silicon researcher, who is informed of my work with Timminco Limited's controversial UMG claims, you understand the reasons why its subsidiary, Becancour Silicon, Inc., objected to my attendance at your conference.

Your note says that Becancour, along with Q-Cells AG and GK Kropfmuhl have jointly notified you that they will boycott your conference--the industry's most important silicon-for-solar meeting--unless you rescind your previous acceptance of my Conference registration, for which you have already received payment. This is an indication of their mutual need to avoid deserved scrutiny of their claims and to oppress the free exchange of ideas. While I am disappointed that you have succumbed to their threat, I hope you will disclose and address the matter fully and openly with all of the Conference's participants.

You may be aware that the Chairman of both Timminco and GK Kropfmuhl is the same man, Heinz Schimmelbusch. You may not know that Mr. Schimmelbusch was a chief protagonist in one of the largest corporate scandals in recent times. Further, you may not know that Q-Cells' Anton Miller is responsible for a series of questionable promotional statements about Timminco's UMG claims. After www.asensio.com issued reports addressing Mr. Miller's statement he tempered his enthusiasm.

My primary purpose in attending was to witness the presentation by Timminco's Renee Boisvert. Mr. Boisvert's basic claims and general description of Timminco's silicon purification process are well known to me and the public at large. However, Timminco has gone to great lengths to appear to be open while refusing to provide the necessary support to substantiate these claims. For example, while Timminco publicly offered investors a bus tour to Becancour's new facility, participants were not allowed off the bus when they arrived.

Thus I was looking forward to examining any new specifics in a forum where vague generalities should not be tolerated and where the claims' veracity should be discussed by experts and

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informed interested parties such as myself. Timminco previously refused to debate me on Canadian TV and in the press. The fact that Q-Cells, GK Kropfmuhl and Timminco joined forces to prevent this free exchange of ideas shows, in my view, that they have no answer to my fact-based research.

I am proud to see that Timminco views my research into UMG purification and cell construction so seriously. I am sure that your decision to compromise your academic principles and open attendance policy was extremely difficult. Nonetheless, in so doing you revealed much about these three companies and their management, giving us all a glimpse of how stock promoters can use their influence to limit discussion of scientific evidence.

I understand that David Lynch, your partner in Solar Technology Research Corporation, a hopeful UMG supplier will not be attending. I trust that he was not also banned, and that you will share Mr. Lynch's studied criticism of Timminco's UMG claims with the conference attendees.

If you wish to thoroughly scrutinize Timminco's claims, I will gladly provide you with questions in writing or appear by phone or teleconference.

In any regard, I wish you well and hope that you will handle this unfortunate event properly.

Sincerely,



Manuel P. Asensio

Attachment