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Andalay Solar Awarded New Patent on its Built-In Electrical Connectors Technology

SAN JOSE, Calif., Jan. 28, 2015 /PRNewswire/ -- The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office ("USPTO") today issued Andalay Solar, Inc. its seventh U.S. patent, which further strengthens the company's unique InstantConnect® wiring technology.

U.S. Patent No. 8,938,919 covers the built-in electrical connectors that mate into the Andalay frame technology. Andalay Solar is the first and only company in the industry to enjoy the advantage of having electrical connections that are integrated in the frame. As the modules are assembled, the electrical connections automatically and instantly connect, thereby reducing the amount of rooftop manual labor normally needed to complete wiring for solar systems.

This latest patent for Andalay's award-winning plug and play solar solution complements the patents that have already been granted for its integrated mounting system for solar panels. Andalay Solar, Inc.'s game-changing patented technology is a low-profile, rail-less system that is aesthetically pleasing. The company's splice technology not only connects the modules together, but also automatically wires and grounds the system, which saves costs and eliminates the need for extra parts such as panel to panel copper wire and grounding lugs.

"Our patent portfolio is even stronger now with this patent which focuses on the easy and instant connection of solar panel wiring. The built-in wire management saves time for installers as well as reduces future operation and maintenance costs," said Steven Chan, President and CEO of Andalay Solar. "Since the wires in our system are built-in, we have seen far fewer maintenance issues due to wire management issues as compared to conventional systems given that there are no dangling wires, less manual wire connections, no wires touching the roof surface and no exposed wires. We have done multiple product demos with installers who have commented that the Andalay system has by far the best thought out integrated wire management system as compared to other solar mounting systems, including other rail-less systems."

Andalay Solar products can be found at Amazon.com, Lowe.com and www.andalaysolar.com.

About Andalay Solar: (OTCQB:WEST)

Founded in 2001, the Company is a designer and manufacturer of integrated solar power systems. The Company has been a pioneer in the concept of integrating the racking, wiring and grounding directly into a solar panel. The Company's AC solar panel reduces the number of components for a rooftop solar installation by approximately 80% and lowers labor costs by approximately 50%. This AC panel, which won the 2009 Popular Mechanics Breakthrough Award, has become the industry's most widely installed AC solar panel. The Company currently sells its new generation "Instant Connect®" products in both AC and DC format which provide the best combination of safety, performance and reliability. For more information on the Company, visit www.andalaysolar.com.

Forward-Looking and Cautionary Statements - Safe Harbor

Statements made in this release that are not historical in nature, including those related to market acceptance of products, constitute forward-looking statements within the meaning of the Safe Harbor Provisions of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Forward-looking statements can be identified by the use of words such as "expects," "projects," "plans," "will," "may," "can," "anticipates," "believes," "should," "intends," "estimates," and other words of similar meaning. These statements include all statements related to reduced maintenance costs, time savings for installers and saving of future O&M costs. The statements are subject to risks and uncertainties that cannot be predicted or quantified, and our actual results may differ materially from those expressed or implied by such forward-looking statements. All forward-looking statements included in this release are made as of the date of this press release, and Andalay Solar assumes no obligation to update any such forward-looking statements.

To view the original version on PR Newswire, visit: <http://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/andalay-solar-awarded-new-patent-on-its-built-in-electrical-connectors-technology-300026890.html>

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