Hanergy outshines competitors with innovative thin-film solar tech

Changing the world with clean energy has long been the mission at Hanergy Thin Film Power Group Limited (00566.HK). Throughout the history of mankind, energy revolutions have gone hand-in-hand with industrial revolutions. Today, the global quest for zero emissions makes solar power an ideal clean, energy choice.

With a forward-looking strategic positioning and the ability to adapt to global energy trends, Hanergy Thin Film Power has successfully drawn on its breadth of experience in developing clean energy to enhance its technological competency. This has resulted in continued business expansion and helped the company to maintain its leading position in the global solar power generation sector.

Driving the development of thin-film technology

Staying at the forefront of technology application is essential and since entering the thin-film power sector in 2009, the Group has invested significantly to remain at the cutting edge. It has brought together scientists and technicians from around the world to conduct research and development and formed a dedicated team to monitor global trends in technology development, so it can make appropriate acquisitions to further reinforce its technical capability.

Over the past few years, the Group brought four world-leading thin-film solar companies under one roof through a series of successful acquisitions. In 2015, the Group completed the acquisition of US-based Alta Devices, which possesses one of the world’s most efficient thin-film solar technologies, known as the GaAs flexible thin-film technology. In the few months that followed, the Group began a domestic pilot run and promotion of the newly acquired technology. It signed a cooperation agreement with Huangpi District Government of Wuhan to construct a 10MW Gallium Arsenide (GaAs) thin-film solar cell manufacturing facility in the Huangpi District, which is set to become the first large-scale GaAs production base in China.

Seeking clear focus on business innovation

In recent years, the Group has also focused on the development of Copper Indium Gallium Selenide (CIGS) thin-film technology. CIGS has a number of merits such as high flexibility and superior weak light performance, enabling the Group to develop further new products and business units, such as building integrated photovoltaics (BIPV), household power generation, flexible rooftop solar modules, applications for automobiles and applications for electronic products.

With the aim of becoming the leading provider of thin-film turnkey production lines, the Group has expanded into downstream photovoltaic power generation in the past two years and established midstream module production lines. By developing an industry supply chain that covers upstream, midstream and downstream sectors, the Group successfully created a fully integrated business model.

At the same time, Hanergy Thin Film Power has collaborated with international brands in different domains, such as IKEA, TESLA, Formula E, Aston Martin and Merry Garden, to promote the application of flexible thin-film power generation technologies in daily-life products and services. At the beginning of this year, the Group also rolled out a mobile energy system solution to accelerate the integration of mobile energy into traditional industries through the “mobile energy+” cooperation model. Through these efforts, the Group is looking to explore market demand and achieve innovation in its business model.

Stellar results recognized by SAFE

Twenty years of commitment to developing its clean energy businesses has placed Hanergy Thin Film Power on a fast track to growth. To date, the Group’s total market value exceeds HKD 300 billion, making it the world’s biggest solar enterprise in terms of market value. Given the good results achieved by the Group and the fact that the Chinese government and society as a whole have been placing increasing importance on environmental issues, the business of clean energy enjoys a positive outlook. Recently, the State Administration of Foreign Exchange (SAFE) through SAFE Investment in Hong Kong, bought a stake in Hanergy Thin Film Power that is worth billions of Hong Kong dollars. The deal underlines the foreign-exchange regulator’s confidence in the prospects of the clean energy sector and also serves as recognition of the overall strength of Hanergy Thin Film Power.

Display of household power generation products at Hanergy Thin Film Power’s flagship store in Chengdu.