



Media Release

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Award-winning UA Tech Park

(Tucson, Arizona)The University of Arizona Science and Technology Park (UA Tech Park) received three prestigious awards in the third quarter of 2010.

On October 15, 2010 the Solar Zone at the UA Tech Park was awarded the **2010 Excellence Award for Innovative Economic Development** at the Governor's Regional and Rural Development Conference held in Flagstaff, Arizona. The purpose of the Excellence Awards Program is to honor organizations which have successfully created and implemented economic development strategies for their respective regional communities that place Arizona in the forefront of economic development.

The Solar Zone was also awarded the Metropolitan Pima Alliance (MPA) **2010 Common Ground Award for Economic Development** on October 15. MPA's Common Ground Awards recognizes community leaders, projects and events with successful collaboration for the overall benefit of the community.

The Solar Zone at the UA Tech Park is a comprehensive, integrated solar research park. It is attracting and developing world-class solar companies that contribute economically to the region and increase the capacity and usage of renewable energy throughout Southern Arizona. The Solar Zone components include: research and development; solar energy generation and deployment; materials and supplies; manufacturing and distribution of solar equipment and hardware; green-job and workforce training; and a public awareness and demonstration center to showcase uses of solar energy. Phase one of the Solar Zone will include \$80-100million in capital investment and will generate on a daily basis 18.5 MW of electrical power. Construction of phase one, which includes 6 solar generation sites and occupies 222 acres of land, is expected to be completed by 2012.

"It is an honor to receive this recognition. These awards confirm the investment spent in strategically developing and master planning the UA Tech Park. Our success was achieved through collaboration with our many partners who are just as dedicated to the projects as we are," said Bruce Wright, Associate Vice President for University Research Parks.

The UA Tech Park also received an honorable mention for the **2010 International Economic Development Council Excellence in Economic Development Awards** in the magazine category for the Park's special section in BizTucson. The International Economic Development Council's Excellence in Economic Development Awards recognizes the world's best economic development marketing materials; programs and partnerships.

The UA Tech Park partnered with BizTucson to develop a 30 page special section insert in the spring 2010 edition of the magazine to commemorate the UA Tech Park's 15 year anniversary. BizTucson is a quarterly magazine that captures the excitement of southern Arizona's dynamic business community. The special section told the story of the UA Tech Park's 15 years of success and the next big ideas through a collection of articles that highlighted Park tenants – both large and emerging – and brought to light some new initiatives including the new 200-acre Solar Zone and the innovative K-12 school. The UA Tech Park's Next Big Idea special section told the story of the UA Tech Park to a local, national and international audience.

The **UA Tech Park** advances the University of Arizona's research mission and its efforts at technology development and technology commercialization. The UA Tech Park contributes \$3.0 billion annually to Pima County's economy. It is one of the region's largest employment centers hosting approximately 40 businesses and organizations that employ 7,000 people. The UA Tech Park is also home to the Arizona Center for Innovation, a technology business incubator, and three educational institutions - UA South, Pima Community College, and Vail Academy and High School. The UA Tech Park has been nationally recognized as one of the premier university research parks in North America. For more information, visit www.uatechpark.org.