



## **Orb Energy announces the opening of its first branch in Karnataka**

**16 November 2006**

Orb Energy ("Orb") today announced the opening of its first branch in Kumta, Karnataka, from which the company will sell, install and service solar energy systems for back-up power and hot water applications. Orb plans to establish 25 branches in Karnataka, and subsequently expand its network country-wide.

An Orb Energy branch is meant to serve as a 'one-stop-shop' for the customer's entire solar energy needs. From its branches, Orb is offering a wide range of solar photovoltaic systems (branded Orb Solelectric), that convert sunlight into electricity. Equally, customers can find solar thermal hot water heaters (branded Orb Sunstream), solar street lighting systems, as well as energy efficient lights, fans and other appliances.

As Damian Miller, the CEO of Orb Energy, in attendance at the inauguration ceremony, said "We are very excited to open our first branch in Kumta, where the solar market is flourishing! For a long time consumers in the coastal regions of Karnataka have suffered from unreliable grid power that just keeps going up in price. Orb Energy intends to bring our customers a unique selection of solar energy products, that helps them overcome power cuts and save money."

Orb expects to invest \$2.5 million in India, with plans to build a national branch network to support customers and ensure quality of delivery, installation, and after-sales service. Work with regional banks is also underway to ensure Orb's customers receive attractive consumer finance packages.

As NP Ramesh, Chief Operating Officer of Orb Energy, explained "Today we took the first step in reaching out to our customer base. We can tailor our solar energy solutions to any requirement a home or business might have, and we can package a system with consumer finance from one of our partner banks. We would like to encourage customers to come see our branch and arrange for an Orb salesperson to visit them. We are sure they will not be disappointed.'

Customers who are interested in learning more about Orb Energy and its product range were invited by Mr. Ramesh to call their customer care line on 99005 20505 and visit their web-site at [www.orbenergy.com](http://www.orbenergy.com).

Over the next five years Orb intends to sell between 10 and 20 MWp of photovoltaic products, with plans to reach more than 100,000 residential and commercial customers. Over the same time frame, the company envisages it will create more than 250 jobs.

### **For further information:**

Contact B.R. Gururaj at 99005 20505 or write to [info@orbenergy.com](mailto:info@orbenergy.com)

### **Notes to Editors:**

#### **Orb Energy**

Orb Energy is headquartered in Singapore with sales and assembly operations in Bangalore, India. Orb's main activities are sales, marketing, installation and servicing of solar systems through a network of branches and dealers.

Orb Energy is currently seeking new franchise partners. All interested parties please call 99005 20505 (between 9am-6pm) or visit [www.orbenergy.com](http://www.orbenergy.com)

### **Forward-looking statements:**

This press release contains forward-looking statements. Forward-looking statements are based on management's current, preliminary expectations and are subject to change. No undue reliance should be placed on forward-looking statements.