



## **Orb Energy announces the opening of its 10th branch in Karnataka**

**17<sup>th</sup> June, 2007**

Today Orb Energy (“Orb”), a Singapore-based solar energy company, announced the opening of its tenth branch in Hubli, from which the company will sell, install and service solar energy systems for back-up power and hot water applications.

In six months, Orb has opened 10 branches in Karnataka, including Kumta, Kundapur, Udipi, Shimoga, Mangalore, Mysore, Hassan, Chikmagalur, Kushalnagar, and Hubli. Each branch is run as a franchise, managed and operated by a local entrepreneur. In total, Orb will open 25 branches in Karnataka, and then expand nation-wide.

Orb sells solar systems to households and enterprises who want to be independent of power cuts and save money on their electricity bill. At an Orb Energy branch, customers have a ‘one-stop-shop’ for a wide range of solar photovoltaic systems (branded Orb Solectric), solar-wind hybrid solutions, solar hot water heaters (branded Orb Sunstream), solar street lighting systems, energy efficient CFL and tube-lights, fans and other energy efficient appliances.

Damian Miller, the CEO of Orb, said “The power cuts are getting worse, particularly in rural areas, and people want a more reliable solution. Solar energy helps people take control of their energy needs, and save money on their electricity bill at the same time. The rapid expansion of our branch network is intended to reach out to the millions of people in India looking for a better energy alternative.”

Orb plans to build a national branch network to support customers and ensure quality of delivery, installation, and after-sales service of solar systems. Orb also works with banks such as the Syndicate Bank, Karnataka Bank, Cauvery Grameena Bank and Canara Bank to ensure its customer’s have access to solar loans.

As NP Ramesh, Chief Operating Officer of Orb, explained “We set out to open 10 branches by the end of the second half of 2007, and today we achieved that goal. By the end of this year, we expect to have opened 20 branches throughout Karnataka. And for us, this is just the beginning.”

Over the next five years Orb intends to reach more than 100,000 residential and commercial solar customers and create more than 500 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 product development, assembly, sales, marketing, installation and servicing of solar systems through a network of franchised branches.

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.