

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**



## **Meridian Announces Strategic Financing**

Leading Provider of Solar Energy Solutions in Texas Announces Strategic Financing

AUSTIN, TX, Sep. 16 – Meridian Energy Systems, Inc., a leading provider of high-quality solar electric energy solutions, today announced the completion of a strategic round of equity financing from a consortium of investors in the renewable energy and traditional energy industries.

Founded in 1999 by CEO and President Andrew McCalla, Meridian ([www.meridiansolar.com](http://www.meridiansolar.com)) specializes in the design and implementation of high-quality commercial and residential solar electric projects for its customers. Based in Austin, Texas, Meridian has established a strong leadership position in the state, holds a significant share of the Austin and San Antonio solar rebate markets, and is demonstrating robust growth beyond the rebate areas throughout Texas and the region.

Meridian is responsible for the design and system integration of the two largest operational solar projects in Texas: the 180kw Fort Sam Houston system completed in 2006 and the 200kW Pearl Brewery system currently nearing completion in San Antonio. The Company has also completed solar electric projects for IBM, Duke University, Austin Energy, BP Solar, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the State of Texas, the University of Texas, Texas Parks and Wildlife, Stratus Properties, Willie Nelson, and other esteemed clients.

Meridian forecasts rapid growth over the next five years as the solar electric market continues to benefit from declining input costs and technology advances. The Company represents a new breed of renewable energy service businesses creating success and green collar jobs in the burgeoning Texas solar market.

Solar energy demand has grown by an average of 30% per annum over the past 15 years and 47% per annum in just the last 5 years, according to Solarbuzz, Inc. ([www.solarbuzz.com](http://www.solarbuzz.com)). Solar installations globally increased by 2,826 Megawatts in 2007, including 57% year-over year growth in the United States, while in 1985, annual solar installation demand was only 21 Megawatts. This growth is primarily the result of rapidly declining costs and prices driven by increasing efficiency of solar cells, manufacturing technology improvements, and economies of scale. The solar industry now globally generates more than \$17bn annually in revenues.

The financing of Meridian, led by Long Branch Capital, provides the company with sufficient resources to accommodate its strategic growth plan and to address the growing market opportunity for solar in Texas and the region.

Meridian CEO Andrew McCalla commented, “The additional resources provided by the investors will enable Meridian to continue to be a leader in high-quality solar electric solutions in Texas. It is clear that the Texas solar market is in the early stages of a long-term growth cycle that will deliver a significant amount of renewable energy, new jobs and economic growth to the region. Texas understands energy and has a solar resource advantage. With the appropriate focus and execution, Meridian expects to capture the tremendous solar opportunity that exists here.”

Harold “Casey” Marshall, a principal at Long Branch Capital, added, “We are excited about Meridian and the prospects for building an innovative, high-quality solar electric design and systems integration business in Texas. Meridian has established a clear leadership position based upon its solar expertise, its focus on quality, and its disciplined operating model. The Texas market is forecast to grow 10x in the next 5 years, and we believe this investment provides a strong platform for Meridian’s future growth.”

Marshall and Long Branch Capital principal, Mark Begert, will join Meridian's Board of Directors effective immediately.

#### About Meridian

Meridian Energy Systems, Inc. ([www.meridiansolar.com](http://www.meridiansolar.com)), a leading provider of solar electric energy solutions, specializes in the design and implementation of high-quality commercial and residential solar projects for its customers. Based in Austin, TX and founded in 1999 by CEO and President Andrew McCalla, Meridian is responsible for the design and system integration of the two largest operational solar projects in Texas: the 180kw Fort Sam Houston system completed in 2006 and the 200kW Pearl Brewery system currently nearing completion in San Antonio. Meridian has established a strong leadership position in Texas and represents a new breed of renewable energy service businesses creating success and green collar jobs in the burgeoning Texas solar market.

#### About Long Branch Capital

Long Branch Capital LLC ([www.longbranchcap.com](http://www.longbranchcap.com)), based in Austin, Texas, makes minority investments in private companies focused on renewable energy, clean technology and energy efficiency. LBC works with companies capable of mitigating technology risk and offering products, services or distribution capabilities to large, or potentially large, markets. Founded by Mark F. Begert and Harold “Casey” Marshall, LBC seeks superior, long-term compounded returns from companies in early to growth equity stages in Texas as well as the Midwestern and Southwestern United States.

For more information, please contact:

Mark Begert, CFO  
Tel: (512) 448-0055  
Fax: (512) 448-0045  
[mark@meridiansolar.com](mailto:mark@meridiansolar.com)  
[www.meridiansolar.com](http://www.meridiansolar.com)