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Press Release

U.S. Photonics receives contract for nuclear component development.

Springfield, Missouri, October, 2013: U.S. Photonics, Inc., a leader in ultrafast lasers, advanced motion control and material science, entered into a contract with **TerraPower, Bellevue, Washington**, to develop a novel method for manufacturing next generation nuclear components. The project supports TerraPower's traveling wave reactor, which offers great promise toward an affordable, safe form of carbon-free energy. This innovative nuclear reactor design will run on depleted uranium, a waste byproduct that exists in huge stock piles around the globe. TerraPower has performed detailed physics and engineering studies using advanced computational tools and is currently moving forward with plant design, component level development, and irradiation testing. The initial launch of the Traveling Wave Reactor is scheduled for 2023.

Background: Terrapower was founded in 2008 from an effort initiated by Intellectual Ventures, a privately held company founded by former Microsoft CTO Nathan Myhrvold. The goal was to develop a radically improved nuclear reactor. The traveling wave reactor, which was first theoretically proposed in the late 1950's, emerged as the most promising solution. Today, TerraPower is funded by an impressive group of individual investors including former Microsoft Chairman Bill Gates.

"US Photonics is proud to work with TerraPower," said Jacob Conner, President. "Our team is currently working on innovative fabrication techniques for core components supporting TerraPower's TWR design. Together, we are establishing American expertise in the field of new materials development. Our work is a critical piece in TerraPower's effort to form a U.S.-based fast reactor supply chain. Moreover, our work brings practical value to our local community, providing key manufacturing jobs in Missouri and helping revitalize the American manufacturing industry."

Status: Approved for Release

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