

**Technical Assistance Request #1**

We intend to locate our manufacturing operations in the company founder's hometown of Beattyville, Kentucky and Owsley County, Kentucky; which are known as the poorest town and poorest county in America and have faced economic devastation due to the loss of coal mining jobs. Because of its remoteness, we intend to utilize the railroad system to ship glass sheets in (if necessary) and completed Rubber Decking and Solar Deck Boards out of this region.

1. What are the economic benefits of locating a factory in China to produce solar panels (that must be packaged and shipped across the ocean) versus locating a factory in Beattyville where the best paying jobs are a school teacher or a store manager?
2. How much capital is required in setting up a 10 MW/year solar panel assembly production line?
3. What are the major uses of labor in the solar panel production industry that would require location of facilities in a low-cost labor area?
4. How much capital is required in setting up a PV cell production line? How much labor is required to operate a 10 MW/year production facility?

**Technical Assistance Request #2**

Follow up to TAR #1:

1. Where and how do we find investors in our solar energy venture, especially when the nearest non-national lab connector is 500 miles away?
2. How does a company obtain Small Business Administration (SBA) loans for inventory and capital equipment when we don't have 6 to 18 months of sales?
3. How does a new solar panel production company survive for the 1- or 2-years period while our product is getting a UL (or equivalent) certification and we can't sell our product?