

Remarks prepared for Jon Ander Aguirrebengoa, General Manager, Gestamp Solar Steel
City of Surprise ceremony hosted by Gov. Jan Brewer
February 22, 2011

Good afternoon.

Governor Brewer, Mayor Truitt, City Council members and distinguished guests . . . thank you for your presence here this afternoon and for being part of a most gracious welcome for Gestamp Solar Steel.

There is a saying “Patience is a virtue.” In this regard, the teams of outstanding individuals at the City of Surprise, the State of Arizona, GPEC, and elsewhere can be assured of finding a place in Heaven. Today’s announcement reflects the culmination of a process with these organizations and other parties that goes back more than a year. I salute the professionalism and determination that has characterized this evolving relationship. I also want to extend our appreciation to the fine people at Mortenson Construction and SmithGroup, in whose capable hands we are entrusting the creation of our manufacturing plant.

We are especially grateful to our new friends and neighbors in the City of Surprise who have worked tirelessly to help advance our respective goals. Like other cities in Europe and America, and elsewhere in Arizona, Surprise is creating an environment where advanced technologies can be developed and deployed, where business can thrive, and where families and communities can embrace each other.

As we gather today in this courtyard, the brilliant sky overhead is a clear reminder of the enormous opportunity we have to harness the sun’s energy.

Some would argue that it is mankind’s destiny to tap such a generous resource.

The history of America speaks of a Manifest Destiny. This was a cultural and societal imperative that drove a westward expansion designed to capitalize on the continent’s great natural resources and strengthen the young nation’s economy.

At Gestamp, we have our own Destiny . . . one that has driven a global expansion of our industrial capabilities to capitalize on business opportunities *where and when they materialize*.

This destiny led Gestamp to the U.S. through our Automotive Group. Today we operate five manufacturing plants employing 1500 workers, and we play a critical role in America’s auto industry by providing world class assembly services and systems.

This destiny also led to the establishment of Gestamp Renewables – which operates across the entire renewable energy value chain to support development of clean energy using Solar, Wind and Biomass technologies.

Now our destiny finds Gestamp in Arizona, the solar capital of the U.S.

We are here because Arizona is at the epicenter of large-scale solar development in the U.S. We are here because the adoption of solar energy in the Southwest U.S. affords extraordinary opportunities for Gestamp to do what we do best . . . provide high-value steel structures, design and engineering services that enable successful development of solar plants.

We do this by leveraging the knowledge and experience gained through our global operating base, which draws on our legacy of design and manufacturing expertise and our commitment to world-class quality.

A special reminder to our first customer in the U.S. – BrightSource Energy – which as you know is developing a major project known as Ivanpah. It's a pleasure for us to a part of this important project. But we also want to acknowledge Solar Reserve, Abengoa, SENER, Siemens and all of our worldwide customers. We will be together with you wherever you develop solar plants.

There may be some who question why European companies are so well positioned to support development of solar projects in America. To those I say “come visit Europe. See what has been happening in Spain, Germany, Italy, Denmark and even Great Britain.”

Europe has been aggressively developing renewable energy for many years. We have done this for many reasons and to some extent it represents our own Manifest Destiny.

As a result of this focus and commitment, European companies have attained a great measure of competence in renewable energy technologies. And so it is as natural for American's to employ the services of companies like Gestamp or Rioglass for their solar projects . . . as it is for European companies to deploy Microsoft software and Oracle enterprise systems while their employees download songs on iTunes and chat with friends on Facebook.

For the moment, America is largely on the receiving end of solar technology. But that is about to change. America's solar market is growing faster than almost anywhere else, and this is much more than rooftops. There are more than 30 large-scale concentrating solar plants in development, and that does not even include utility-scale projects using photovoltaic solar panels.

American universities lead the world in solar research, and the U.S. Department of Energy is aggressively supporting the search for innovative energy solutions.

This dynamic will give American companies the opportunity to stake their own claim to advanced solar energy technologies, products and services.

Over the next five to fifteen years, we expect a dramatic build-out of large solar plants in the Southwest, a great many of which will represent potential customers for Gestamp Solar Steel.

In our view, Gestamp is playing a central role reshaping the world's energy industry, and I believe that Arizona is positioned to make that same claim.

Gestamp Solar Steel is proud to call Arizona our U.S. headquarters, and we look forward to being an important part of Arizona's expanding solar ecosystem.

Thank you.