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NEWS RELEASE

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LC&D Helps National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) Become Nation's First Federal Laboratory to Achieve LEED Platinum Rating

(Los Angeles, CA – 15 Feb 2008) A research facility at the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) National Renewable Energy Laboratory is the first federal laboratory building to receive a platinum rating, the highest in the LEED Green Building rating system. Based in Golden, CO, the NREL is the nation's leading research facility on solar power. Lighting Control & Design (LC&D) is the Los Angeles-based manufacturer of all-digital lighting control products and a pioneer in the field of daylight harvesting. LC&D's state-of-the-art daylight harvesting control strategies and products, including the MicroPanel™, enabled NREL to optimize their distributed control requirements, specifically local overrides required to adapt to the constantly shifting work schedules of the lab's researchers and technicians.

The coveted platinum LEED rating designates the 71,000-sq. ft., \$22.7-million, state-of-the-art Science & Technology Facility (S&TF) as one of the most energy efficient and environmentally friendly places to work in the United States by the U.S. Green Buildings Council under its Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building program. Only 28 other buildings in the world have achieved the LEED platinum designation.

LEED is the nationally accepted benchmark for the design, construction and operation of high performance green buildings. It recognizes and measures building performance in five key areas of human and environmental health: sustainable site development, water savings, energy efficiency, materials selection and indoor environmental quality.

Lighting Control & Design (LC&D) supplied the state-of-the-art lighting control package which incorporates daylight harvesting technologies and photo cell and occupancy sensors which link to HVAC controls, providing one of the country's most integrated energy management systems.

LC&D's MicroPanel™, a compact, networked lighting controller that seamlessly integrates manual control, occupancy sensors, daylight harvesting, time-based control, and building automation, provided the innovative solution to the research facility's most pressing

control issue – local overrides to adjust to the constantly changing schedule of lab researchers and technicians.

The multi-story building was designed to fit into the gently sloping side of a mesa, where care was taken to minimize disturbing the natural terrain and conserve and manage water resources. Architectural features such as daylighting, evaporative cooling and efficient motors, fans, windows and lighting reduce the building's energy requirements, saving 41 percent in energy costs.

“I commend NREL for answering the President’s call to be more energy efficient and I encourage more facilities to follow this example. In addition to being a world leader in renewable energy research and development, NREL has now raised the bar in terms of increasing energy efficiency on site as well,” Secretary of Energy Samuel W. Bodman stated.

“Our built environment uses 40% of the nation’s energy. As the country’s largest energy consumer, it is incumbent upon the federal government to lead by example and use energy as efficiently as possible,” Assistant Secretary for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Andy Karsner stated. *“The President’s historic executive order requires the government to cut energy intensity by at least 30% in less than a decade, promoting energy efficiency as a national priority. Consistent with our emphasis and investment at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, this building is a beacon of how we can combine innovative designs and new building technologies to minimize our carbon footprint and transform the built environment.”*

NREL staff worked with the architect and construction contractor to make certain that 11 percent of the building materials were from recycled materials and 27 percent of the construction materials were manufactured within 500 miles of the building site. This minimized impact on land and air quality by reducing the amount of waste to landfills and vehicle emissions from transporting materials.

“Indoor environmental quality and employee health and safety were high priorities,” said Nancy Carlisle, AIA, NREL senior project leader. “The building’s office area is 100 percent day lighted. That glare-free natural lighting coupled with large window views of the outdoors not only saves energy, but decreases eye strain, improves ‘see-ability’ and has been shown to increase productivity.”

About 55 researchers and support staff work in the S&TF. The Science & Technology Facility houses some of NREL’s solar and hydrogen energy research and was designed to help accelerate the development and commercialization of promising new energy technologies. It was completed in June 2006. The SmithGroup of Phoenix, AZ, was the design architect. M.A. Mortenson Company of Denver, CO, was the general contractor.

NREL is the U.S. Department of Energy's primary national laboratory for renewable energy and energy efficiency research and development. NREL is operated for DOE by Midwest Research Institute and Battelle.