

Excerpt from Globe and Mail, November 13, 2006

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/servlet/story/LAC.20061113.IBVENTURE13/TPStory/Business>

Nanosolar set for expected clean-tech boom

Private and institutional investors rush to jump on environmental bandwagon

SHAWN MCCARTHY

PALO ALTO, CALIF. -- With the backing of Google Inc.'s founders and \$75-million (U.S.) in recent financing, Silicon Valley startup Nanosolar Inc. is on the cutting edge of a clean-tech boom.

Armed with the proceeds of a June financing, the privately held company is building a factory that will combine patented nanotechnology and traditional printing techniques to produce so-called thin-film solar panels for photovoltaic power.

Nanosolar is benefiting from a rush among venture capitalists, private equity firms and institutional investors to build "clean technology" portfolios that would take advantage of high energy prices, advances in material sciences and the increasing concern about global warming.

But the energy tech sector remains a risky investment for the companies that have gone public, with North American markets in particular underdeveloped, and renewable energy often dependent on subsidies.

The WilderHill clean energy index, a basket of 42 publicly traded companies, is down 27 per cent from its May peak, but still up 12 per cent from a year ago. The index, which includes Vancouver-based Ballard Power Systems Inc., has gained 48 per cent since it was inaugurated in August, 2004.

Enthusiasts believe that well-managed companies that offer innovative products and processes will be winners in the coming years.

....