



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Arch Aluminum & Glass and Konarka Technologies to Develop Semi-Transparent Solar Glass Products for the Building Integrated Photovoltaics (BIPV) Market**

*Architects no longer have to trade beauty for energy efficiency*

**Fort Lauderdale, Fla. — May 5, 2009 —** Arch Aluminum and Glass ([www.archaluminum.com](http://www.archaluminum.com)), an industry leader in architectural glass fabrication, and Konarka Technologies, Inc. ([www.konarka.com](http://www.konarka.com)), the leader in solar plastic film that converts light into energy, announced today they have entered into a joint development agreement. Under the new agreement, the companies will explore development of a complete line of attractive, semi-transparent, glass building integrated photovoltaic (BIPV) products called Active Solar Glass® (ASG).

Using Konarka's semi-transparent Power Plastic®, ASG will come in a range of colors that will finally give architects and designers the ability to make every glass surface in a building a solar power plant. ASG will also incorporate other passive solar technologies, such as Low- E, that will result in the industry's most energy-efficient line of window, skylights and curtain walls.

"Konarka is making great strides with our aggressive plans to expand into various markets, including building and construction," commented Rick Hess, president and CEO at Konarka. "Because our solar material is flexible, lightweight and semi-transparent, it integrates more easily and is more aesthetically appealing than other solar products, making it ideally suited for BIPV applications. We expect that our collaborative work with Arch Aluminum will advance the delivery of Konarka Power Plastic on a large-scale basis into this market segment."

Arch Aluminum is one of the nation's largest fabricators of a wide range of artistic and architectural glass products that keep pace with the demands of today's architects, designers and building developers. The company offers in-house laminating, heat-treating and fabrication technology as well as selective, engineered, off-the-shelf aluminum and glass products.

“Until today, aesthetic and performance concerns limited the ability of architects to use BIPV technology in their designs,” commented Arch CEO Leon Silverstein. “Today’s announcement is about the creation of a new product category, one that had been unavailable until now. It is energy-efficient and transparent, with superior vertical performance and a subtle red, blue or green aesthetic. With these features, BIPV will no longer need to be confined to spandrel or overhead applications. An entire building can be put to use, producing its own power, and looking good doing so. We’re excited about our efforts with Konarka to bring this technology to the building community.”

### **Energy-Producing, Energy-Efficient Solution**

The advanced joint development effort will not only integrate Konarka’s Power Plastic® into glass panels that will generate power, but will incorporate passive solar technologies, including Low-E coatings. This will make ASG not only energy-producing, but energy-efficient, which means even lower building electricity costs.

ASG will also allow customers to take advantage of the traditional benefits of laminated glass, including safety, security, structural and sound protection.

### **Transparent Aesthetics**

ASG will offer the building products industry an unprecedented combination of performance and aesthetics. Until today, BIPV technology had limited applications due to a drab, cloudy aesthetic. ASG will provide designers the ability to make every building envelope a visually attractive solar collector, with the choice of subtle red, blue and green colors.

The ASG line will also offer unprecedented transparency. While much BIPV glass is largely opaque and suitable for use only in spandrel glass, Konarka’s film material is clear enough to be used in traditional vision applications and will offer the highest transparency of any BIPV glazing product on the market.

### **Vertical Bifacial Performance**

With the ability to collect energy at up to 70 percent off-axis, ASG can harvest energy from nearly sunrise to sunset, and can even be used on vertical surfaces. This performance is unmatched by any previous BIPV product, which has traditionally been effective only on horizontal surfaces.

The Konarka film is also bifacial, making ASG the only BIPV fenestration on the market that can harness energy from both indoor and outdoor light.

### **Organic Origins**

Konarka’s Power Plastic® was designed using a proprietary polymer-based, organic photovoltaic (OPV) technology is organic, free of hazardous materials and truly green. Unlike many competitors that use products that incorporate dangerous metals, ASG does not incur any additional cost to mitigate hazardous materials.

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**About Arch Aluminum & Glass Co. Inc.**

Arch Aluminum is your TRUE SINGLE SOURCE® for Architectural Aluminum, Extrusions, Insulated, Tempered, Mirrors, Laminated, and Decorative Glass. Arch is an American-owned, family business founded in 1978. Arch now operates 32 facilities in 17 states with more than 2100 employees. For more information on Arch Aluminum & Glass, visit <http://www.archaluminum.net> or call 1-866-629-ARCH.

**About Konarka Technologies, Inc.**

Konarka develops and manufactures solar plastic films that convert light to energy – anywhere. As the leading developer of polymer-based, organic photovoltaic (OPV) technology that provides a source of renewable power in a variety of form factors, Konarka has a broad portfolio of patents, technology licenses and an accomplished technical, scientific and manufacturing team. Manufactured at low cost and low energy consumption, the company's Konarka Power Plastic® technology is lightweight, flexible, scalable and adaptable for use in a variety of commercial, industrial, government and consumer applications. Konarka Technologies is headquartered in Lowell, Mass., U.S.A. and has a full-scale production manufacturing facility in New Bedford, Mass. U.S.A., with European headquarters in Nurnberg, Germany, business development offices in Asia and a research and development facility in Austria. For additional information, visit <http://www.konarka.com>.

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