



Soluz, Inc.

55 Middlesex Street, Unit 221 • N. Chelmsford, Massachusetts 01863-1561 • 978-251-5290 • 978-251-5291 fax

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Contacts: Soluz, Inc.

Mr. John Rogers, Vice President

Tel: (+1) 978-251-5290

info@SoluzUSA.com

www.SoluzUSA.com

World Economic Forum

Claudia Gonzalez, Press Officer

claudia.gonzalez@weforum.org

SOLUZ PARTICIPATES IN DAVOS AS TECHNOLOGY PIONEER

World Economic Forum Selects Soluz CEO for Innovation, Impact, Leadership in Energy

Chelmsford, MA, USA – Soluz President and Founder Richard Hansen participated in the recent World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, having been designated a Technology Pioneer for 2003, one of two selected in the field of energy.

The Technology Pioneers are chief executives that are developing and applying the most innovative and transformational technologies. The Forum believes that this dynamic group is at the forefront of change in a variety of technology sectors.

In line with the Forum's commitment to improving the state of the world, the Technology Pioneers program was started in 2000 to provide a new perspective on technological change. By bringing these chief executives together with scientists, academics, non-governmental organizations, and Forum members and partners, the Forum hopes to shed new light on how technology can be used to stimulate medical breakthroughs, create economic growth, and enhance global communication.

Each year Technology Pioneers are nominated by members, constituents, and collaborators of the World Economic Forum. The criteria for selection include innovation, growth and sustainability, proof of concept, leadership, status, and potential impact. Nominees are evaluated by an external review committee of technology experts with respect to these criteria.

Mr. Hansen participated with other Technology Pioneers at the annual World Economic Forum from January 26 to 28, 2003, where he led a discussion session about the *energy divide*, the disparity in access to modern sources of energy and the potential for distributed micro-power for rural electrification in developing countries. "It's a privilege to be able to share experiences within a community of global leaders and innovators," said Hansen. "Addressing the needs of a significant portion of the world population without access to electricity will require continued innovation, collaborations, and partnerships. We're pleased that the Soluz experience in rural energy delivery with solar photovoltaic technology was included in this event."

The uniqueness of the Technology Pioneer network ensures that key entrepreneurs such as Hansen are engaged in an integrated and interdisciplinary way, drawing on the diversity, creativity, and dynamism of each individual. The Technology Pioneers community will provide the Forum and its members with in-depth knowledge of some of the key technology issues facing society.

About Soluz, Inc.

Soluz, Inc. (www.SoluzUSA.com) is a business and technology development company, commercializing distributed micro-power for the global transition to sustainable energy. The company's core expertise is in the development and support of rural energy delivery companies—REDCOs—to meet the vast need for electric service in rural areas using a "wireless" approach to electrification. Soluz's

solutions target energy services in developing countries around the world, where two billion people—some 400 million households—lack access to electrical distribution infrastructure.

Soluz has developed the first REDCOs to combine distributed photovoltaic (PV) technology with an unsubsidized rental, or fee-for-service, offering. The company has earned significant experience through Soluz Dominicana and Soluz Honduras, its majority-owned REDCO subsidiaries. Those operations provide a higher quality of service through PV systems as a replacement for the current energy sources of rural customers. By 2002 the Soluz REDCOs were serving 3,000 unsubsidized PV fee-for-service customers and over 6,000 customers overall, including cash and credit sales. The operations continue to serve as key industry benchmarks for rural energy delivery.

About the World Economic Forum

The World Economic Forum (www.weforum.org), based in Geneva, Switzerland, is an independent organization committed to improving the state of the world. Funded by the contributions of 1,000 of the world's foremost corporations, the Forum acts in the spirit of entrepreneurship in the global public interest to further economic growth and social progress. The Forum serves its members and society by creating partnerships between and among business, political, intellectual, and other leaders of society to define, discuss, and advance key issues on the global agenda. Incorporated in 1971 as a foundation, the World Economic Forum is impartial and not-for-profit, and is tied to no political, partisan or national interests. In 1995 the Forum was awarded NGO consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations.

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