

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Inland Northwest Economic Developments, Summer 2008**  
***Inland Northwest hotbed for clean energy industry***

*The clean energy industry is growing in the Inland Northwest. According to the Community Indicators of Spokane, in Spokane County alone, alternate production of electricity by renewable resources increased by 103 percent between 2002 and 2006.*

*Within the last few months, clean energy companies in the area have announced significant advances. Area biodiesel plants are producing more than 10 million gallons of fuel a year and regional power utility Avista Utilities is developing a 50-megawatt wind farm near Reardan. ReliOn, the leading provider of high-reliability fuel cell solutions for backup power applications, just secured an additional \$23 million in equity financing as a result of Series C funding activities. Industry leaders Itron and Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories are growing here.*

*The Inland Northwest is also home to many clean energy research projects, including Columbia BioEnergy's locomotive biodiesel testing and Avista's solar power research facility. The region's clean energy industry is booming and the Inland Northwest has proven to be a hotbed for clean energy activities.*

*The following companies and organizations are making news in clean energy.*

**GoNano Technologies** develops core technologies for emerging and existing clean-tech energy markets. With a primary focus is renewable energy solution, their patent pending nanomaterials provide a platform for highly efficient energy solutions.

GoNano recently opened its new R&D facility headed by VP of Research Dr. David McIlroy. The new space is strategically located adjacent to the University of Idaho and only eight miles from Washington State University. Access to these two research universities accelerates the development opportunities and testing of patented nanomaterials and applications. Learn more at <http://www.gonano-9.com>.

**Columbia BioEnergy**, the first permitted biodiesel refinery in Washington state, is producing 8 to 10 million gallons of biodiesel each year from canola oil, restaurant grease, soy and other crops. The Creston, Wash.-based refinery recently joined with Eastern Washington Gateway Railroad to test if biodiesel will work in locomotives. The EWGR train left Creston last week filled with 500 gallons of biodiesel. The train will refuel at the Columbia BioEnergy plant every week or so for approximately three months, during the testing period. To learn more, read the article at [http://www.spokesmanreview.com/tools/story\\_pf.asp?ID=250050](http://www.spokesmanreview.com/tools/story_pf.asp?ID=250050) or visit [www.co.lincoln.wa.us/edc](http://www.co.lincoln.wa.us/edc).

**Inland Empire Oilseeds**, an oilseed crushing and biodiesel refining facility located in Odessa, Wash., is crushing nearly 45,000 tons of canola seeds per year and refining it into highly efficient biodiesel. Last fall, Odessa Public Development Authority in Odessa, Wash., received \$1 million from Washington's Energy Freedom Loan Program, and partnered with Inland Empire Oilseeds to build the facility. To learn more, visit [www.inlandempireoilseeds.com](http://www.inlandempireoilseeds.com).

Centered on a theme of clean, energy-efficient IT and data center technologies, the Pullman Innovation Partnership Zone, funded in part by the Washington State Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development, serves as a collocation facility for clean technology companies. Pullman IPZ has created a focused center of excellence to which related companies and industries will gravitate called the **Green IT Alliance (GITA)**. GITA is devoted to accelerating broad adoption of technologies and practices for integrating energy efficient IT infrastructure into sustainable enterprise and datacenter building and landscape architecture. The center provides research, training and testing facilities as well as high performance computing assets and services to advance the State of Washington's goals of sustainability. Learn more at [www.portwhitman.com](http://www.portwhitman.com), or [www.gitalliance.org](http://www.gitalliance.org).

In April, Spokane, Wash.-based **ReliOn** announced that it secured an additional \$23 million in equity financing as a result of Series C funding activities. ReliOn welcomed two new investors into the C round: the PCG Clean Energy & Technology Fund, LLC of La Jolla, California, and Robeco Clean Tech Private Equity II ("Robeco") of Rotterdam, Netherlands. Visit

ReliOn is the world leader in the development and marketing high-reliability fuel cell solutions for backup power applications. ReliOn solutions benefit its customers by providing highly reliable, clean power. Hydrogen fuel cells are inherently clean, with the only emission being moist air, which makes installation possible at sites under strict environmental standards. For more information, visit [www.relion-inc.com](http://www.relion-inc.com).

**Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories (SEL)** in Pullman, WA works in the power systems protection field, designing and manufacturing embedded system products to monitor, control and meter electric power systems. Earlier this year, the 1,300-person company announced it will add 300 jobs in 2008 as it continues expansion world wide. SEL invented the first all-digital protective relay, reducing the cost and complexity of power protection and revolutionizing the industry.

Lewiston, Idaho-based **Coleman Oil Co. Inc** is bringing biodiesel to fuel pumps across North Idaho. The petroleum distribution company has installed two 40,000-gallon tanks to hold the biodiesel. Westminster, Colo.-headquartered Blue Sun Biodiesel LLC plans to supply the company with B20-grade biodiesel. Coleman anticipates using 500,000 gallons of biodiesel in its first year of distribution, but will have the blending capability of 20,000,000 gallons per year. Coleman will supply biodiesel to retail customers, including Schweitzer Mountain Resort in Sandpoint. Visit [www.colemanoil.com](http://www.colemanoil.com) for more information.

Liberty Lake-based **Itron**, a leading technology provider to the global energy and water industries, recently announced a new contract with Tri-State Generation and Transmission

Association, Inc., one of the nation's largest wholesale power generation and transmission cooperatives, which will deploy Itron Enterprise Edition (IEE) Meter Data Management (MDM) to improve its meter data management processes. Itron also recently signed 10 new contracts with utilities throughout North America to deliver Distribution Design Studio (DDS), or associated enhancement modules for current customers, to maintain and extend their overhead and underground infrastructure as their service territories and customer bases grow. Learn more at [www.itron.com](http://www.itron.com).

**Avista Utilities** is making great strides in clean energy. The company has acquired the rights to develop a wind farm near Reardan, Wash. The wind farm is capable of producing up to 50 MW of power, but will likely generate an average of 15 MW due to variable nature of wind. Avista's Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) calls for 300 MW of wind energy to be added to the company's portfolio by 2017.

Avista is also working with two firms to test clean energy sources and solar power at its new facility in Rathdrum. San Francisco startup company **Green Volts Inc.** will test its 2.4-kilowatt utility-scale, sun-tracking solar array at the facility. GreenVolts' system is made by Ecolite Manufacturing Co. of Spokane Valley. The second tenant, Honolulu-based **Sopogy, Inc.**, will use the facility to assess its concentrated solar power technology.

Avista also encourages its customers to generate renewable energy by offering a renewable generation incentive (RGI) for Washington-based customers who install their own renewable energy systems, like solar panels, wind turbines or anaerobic digesters. Visit [www.avistautilities.com/services/renewable](http://www.avistautilities.com/services/renewable) to learn more.

**About the Inland Northwest Economic Alliance (INEA)** - Backed by the assets of two states and several counties, the INEA markets the considerable advantages of doing business in eastern Washington and northern Idaho. Recruiters travel regularly to California, selectively targeting companies for relocation and expansion project in the Inland Northwest. Members include a total of 11 economic development agencies representing 15 counties in the two states. To learn more call (866) 495-8877 or visit [www.inlandnorthwestregion.com](http://www.inlandnorthwestregion.com).