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Battery Charge Pack

# Solar launch

ScotteVest (SeV) and Global Solar Energy, the developer and manufacturer of flexible solar cells, has announced that the first solar-powered jacket designed to carry, connect and charge portable devices will be commercially available this month.

The solar panels are attached to the SeV Version Three Finetex, an all-weather jacket with removable sleeves and over 30 hidden pockets. The jacket features SeV's patent-pending Personal Area Network (PAN), which conceals wires associated with power sources and earbuds.

Global Solar's PowerFLEX solar panels consist of a flexible thin-film photovoltaic material made from copper indium gallium diselenide (CIGS) sun-absorbing material placed onto a thin stainless steel substrate. The panels convert sunlight into electricity that charges a hidden battery pack about the size of a deck of cards.

The battery pack in turn can charge any device compatible with USB chargers, including cell phones, PDAs, Game Boys, MP3 players and other mobile devices.

The solar panels are removable and can be used separately from the jackets. Typical charge times in direct sunlight range from two to three hours, although direct sunlight is not required. The jacket's battery can begin powering devices almost immediately after the solar panels are exposed to sunlight. Once the battery is fully charged, the panels can be removed and portable electronic devices can tap into the stored power. When attached, the solar panels complement the jacket's stylish, futuristic design.

Global Solar's CIGS technology is a high-efficiency, ultra-lightweight personal solar power solution that has proven itself in numerous applications, ranging from marine to desert environments for the military and others.

