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The US module provider said the panels produced at the facility will be 100 percent compliant with the U.S. Commerce Department's Withhold and Release Order on Hoshine silicon.

Arizona-based solar module provider Universal Solar announced it will build a 600 MW PV panel manufacturing facility at the Colón Logistics Park located in the Colón Container Terminal CCT in Colón, Panama.

Universal Solar is taking orders now, with delivery expected in the fourth quarter 2022, the company said in a statement released. The company has signed Master Service Agreements for more than 400 MW of modules, and is negotiating an additional 175 MW, which would account for nearly all of the factory's 600 MW first-line capacity.

The factory has a surface of around 18,500 m² and will rely on production equipment that Universal Solar is currently purchasing from undisclosed industry-leading original equipment manufacturers.

The company will initially produce monocrystalline PERC panels with a power output ranging from 350 to 545 W and a power conversion efficiency between 20.04% and 21.46%. Universal Solar will offer 25- to 30-year linear power output warranties and 12- to 15-year material and workmanship warranties, the manufacturer further explained. Universal Solar's modules will be 100 percent compliant with the U.S. Commerce Department's Withhold and Release Order on Hoshine silicon.

The factory will mainly serve the US market. The U.S. has a long-standing Free Trade Agreement with Panama, and Panama is an example of near-shoring, in which U.S. businesses locate operations in countries close to home, the company stated.

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US module manufacturer Universal Solar is developing a module manufacturing plant in Panama with an initial capacity of 600MW, targeting supply lines disrupted by policy headwinds.



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The facility will produce mono PERC modules and the first products to come off the line will have an output of 350 - 545W. Modules are slated to have efficiencies of up to 21.46%, while some will feature half-cell technology, Universal Solar said.

While Universal Solar has not disclosed any upstream suppliers for components such as cells - however it does stress all bill of materials are obtained from "tier one OEMs" - the company has confirmed that its products will be fully compliant with the US Department of Commerce's withhold and release order which restricts imports on products linked to polysilicon produced by Hoshine.

The location for the facility was chosen due both to the strength of its position for international shipping and the presence of a long-standing free trade agreement between the US and Panama, reducing the risk of import duties being imposed on products in the future.

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