



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Solar Workstations for Mobile Device Charging Installed on the University of Memphis Campus by Regional Partners

Memphis, TN (Nov. 3, 2022) – Today, the University of Memphis FedEx Institute of Technology celebrated a unique and sustainable new feature on their campus: two new solar-powered workstations, which use the power of the sun to charge electronic devices such as laptops and cellphones. The workstations were donated by the Seven States Power Corporation and MLGW.

The new solar-powered workstations allow students, faculty, and staff to charge their mobile devices for free via power generated from solar panels on top of the umbrellas. Batteries in the workstation store energy for charging devices even when the sun is not shining — eliminating any need for the structures to be connected to the power grid.

A dedication ceremony for the solar workstations was held today at the end of the 2022 Annual Meeting of the Seven States Power Corporation, which had attracted leaders from power companies that serve communities across the Tennessee Valley.

“Innovative partnerships like these are a great example of how universities can collaborate with industries to bring positive impact not only to students, but also to the environment,” stated **Dr. Jasbir Dhaliwal, University of Memphis Executive Vice President for Research & Innovation and FedEx Institute of Technology Executive Director**. *“Solar technology can impact our overcoming climate change, and we thank MLGW and Seven States for their partnership.”*

“Seven States is proud of this project because it demonstrates how strong partnerships can drive innovation across the Tennessee Valley,” said **Betsey Kirk McCall, President & CEO of Seven States Power Corporation**. *“It is thrilling to see how our efforts together can inspire the innovators who learn and work at the FedEx Institute of Technology and the University of Memphis.”*

“MLGW is pleased to partner with the Seven States Power Corporation and The University of Memphis to bring leading edge technology to the U of M campus with these new solar workstations,” said **Dana Jeanes, MLGW Senior Vice President, CFO and CAO, and Seven States Board member**. *“The workstations use sustainable power utilizing solar energy to charge cell phones, and I’m sure U of M students will be quite happy to put the workstations to good use as the University is vested in future technology, as is MLGW. As a member of the Seven States board and MLGW leadership, we look forward to future partnerships involving the U of M, MLGW and Seven States.”*

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About Seven States Power Corporation

[Seven States Power Corporation](#) is an energy and technology solutions provider for local power companies in the Tennessee Valley. As a non-profit membership cooperative, it is 100% owned and

operated by the 153 power utilities across the seven states region in the Tennessee Valley Authority's service area. Seven States leverages innovative technology to design, develop, and deploy sustainable solutions. It strategically deploys solutions that align with the local power companies and TVA's shared vision for innovative technology that supports grid resiliency, economic development, and decarbonization.

About The University of Memphis

The University of Memphis (UofM) is a comprehensive, internationally recognized, urban public research university preparing students for success in a diverse, innovative, global environment. Student success, service, innovation, diversity and inclusion, collaboration and accountability are core values at the University of Memphis. The University is classified as "Carnegie R1" or "Doctoral: Very High Research Activity and Community Engaged" per the Carnegie Classification for Institutions of Higher Learning. With a focus on research and service benefitting communities locally and across the globe, we are home to nationally designated centers of excellence in cybersecurity research and education, transportation workforce development, mobile health data and five Tennessee centers of research excellence. The UofM is dedicated to providing the highest quality of education to a diverse student body that includes members who are of all ages, racial and ethnic heritages and economic backgrounds (including a significant proportion of students who are Pell-eligible), as well as veterans and first-generation college students. Academic degree programs at the undergraduate, masters, doctoral and professional levels as well as certificate programs are offered on the main campus in Memphis, the Lambuth campus in Jackson, and through UofM Global. The UofM awards approximately 4,700 degrees and certificates annually. Talented and innovative faculty have developed both undergraduate and graduate programs that are ranked in the top 25 nationally. Our metropolitan setting has enabled us to build a nationally recognized internship program that facilitates the placement of undergraduate and graduate students throughout the community in nonprofit and for-profit organizations that specialize in healthcare, government, transportation and logistics, music and entertainment, medical devices, banking and the arts.

About The FedEx Institute of Technology

The FedEx Institute of Technology is an advanced technology and research organization that serves as the front door to the research infrastructure and innovation capabilities at The University of Memphis. It functions as a catalyst for interdisciplinary study in emerging technologies by supporting cross-campus research clusters and is also home to the University's intellectual property and patent repository for tech transfer and commercialization. It also houses the MD2K Center of Excellence, the Center for Information Assurance, the Institute for Intelligent Systems, Systems Testing Excellence Program, and the UofM Graduate School. The Institute enjoys a unique innovation partnership with FedEx, sponsoring the Institute for advanced research purposes, and is a central hub for efforts to maintain a cutting-edge innovative environment in the Mid-South region.

About Memphis Light, Gas, and Water (MLGW)

MLGW is the largest three-service public power utility in the nation, serving more than 440,000 customers in Memphis and Shelby County.

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