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## **Announcement on Entry into the Solar Cell Manufacturing Equipment Market**

Hirata Corporation is pleased to announce that we will make a full-scale entry into the market of solar cell manufacturing equipment.

### **1. Background to market entry**

Energy and environmental challenges have become global issues of great concern. Solar photovoltaic (PV) power generation, which is an inexhaustible and clean energy source, has come under the spotlight as a solution to this problem and future growth in demand is expected.

Manufacturing of solar cells used in solar power generation applies FPD (Flat Panel Display) manufacturing technology and semiconductor manufacturing technology. Taking advantage of all the technologies and expertise we have acquired through years of experience and achievements in these industries, we started accepting orders for transfer robots, transfer conveyors, and various equipment used in the solar cell manufacturing process.

### **2. Our strength in the market**

Utilizing glass substrate transfer robots, which have a track record in the transfer of liquid crystal panels, the transfer robots achieve high-speed transfer of 5th generation solar cell panels. In the liquid crystal industry, we have already started production and sales of robots for the 10th generation size substrates, and are ready to accommodate future growth in the size of solar cell panels. As for transfer conveyors, we developed belt-type conveyor units and roller conveyors by applying technologies used in manufacturing equipment for liquid crystal and home appliances. We also developed various pieces of equipment used in the solar cell back-end process.

Utilizing the power of production engineering and manufacturing, we can integrate these products to realize lines combining the entire solar cell manufacturing process from the front-end through the back-end. We can manufacture, install, and launch these integrated lines as a turnkey solution\*.

These products have already been put to practical use. We will position solar cell manufacturing as a

growth business, focus on the industry so that it will be the main pillar of our business, and strive to further enhance our corporate value. In addition, we are committed to contribute to overcoming energy and environmental challenges by playing a part in the global solar cell industry.

\*Turnkey Solution: To make operation easier for the customer and to ensure satisfaction, we provide a product that is designed, supplied, and installed fully complete by Hirata, ready for start-up at the turn of a key.