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## PRESS RELEASE

### **President of India to become first customer for new solar-powered, ozone-friendly vaccine refrigerator**

New Delhi, 1 November 2006 – The President of India, Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, is becoming the first buyer of the innovative and environment-friendly SolarChill vaccine refrigerator. The SolarChill will be installed this afternoon in the President's estate clinic.

The SolarChill was conceived as a vaccine cooler for remote areas in developing countries where access to power supplies is difficult. Powered by three 60-watt photovoltaic panels, it stores the energy of the sun in ice instead of batteries. In place of CFCs and other ozone depleting and global warming substances, SolarChill relies on ozone- and climate-friendly hydrocarbon refrigerants.

SolarChill offers many practical benefits: it can be used where electricity lines are non-existent or unreliable, it is safer than the kerosene vaccine coolers currently used in remote areas, and it is 50 to 60% cheaper than currently available, battery-operated solar vaccine coolers.

A second SolarChill model is being developed for food refrigeration. It will be suitable for households and small businesses. SolarChill will also play a useful role in natural and human-made disaster areas.

The SolarChill technology will be placed in the public domain and made freely available to any company in the world once the technology is certified by the World Health Organization.

President Kalam, who has been closely following the development of the SolarChill technology, is making his acquisition of this ozone- and climate-friendly cooler during the annual Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer. The Government of India is hosting the conference at the Vigyan Bhavan Conference Centre in New Delhi from 30 October to 3 November.

The ozone meeting will be followed by the annual conference for the United Nations Climate Change Convention and the Kyoto Protocol, which will be held in Nairobi, Kenya from 6 to 17 November.

The SolarChill project bridges health, development and environmental concerns. The project proves that it is possible to bring practical health benefits to

people, particularly the rural poor, through simple, cost-effective technologies that also protect the ozone layer and the global climate system.

The development of SolarChill was made possible through practical cooperation between major international organizations, research institutes and industry.

The SolarChill partners are the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the World Health Organization (WHO), the Danish Technological Institute (DTI), Greenpeace International, GTZ Proklima, and Programs for Appropriate Technologies in Health (PATH). The refrigeration companies Vestfrost and Danfoss participated in SolarChill's development phase.

The SolarChill Vaccine Cooler and Refrigerator Project won the prestigious 2006 UK Cooling Industry Award in the Environmental Pioneer Refrigeration category.

**Note to journalists:** For more information, see [www.solarchill.org](http://www.solarchill.org) or [www.coolingindustryawards.com/env\\_pioneer\\_refr.asp](http://www.coolingindustryawards.com/env_pioneer_refr.asp).

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