



## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Energy Systems Network, Indiana Economic Development Corporation host Georgian delegation on agricultural, energy, workforce issues** *Delegation meets with Governor Daniels, Secretary of Commerce Hasler, Indiana corporate and higher education leaders to explore opportunities for collaboration and partnership*

(INDIANAPOLIS, Ind., August 13, 2012) A delegation of business, academic and public policy experts from Georgia has concluded a week-long visit to Indiana, marked by meetings with Governor Mitch Daniels, Secretary of Commerce Dan Hasler and a host of higher education and corporate leaders to explore future business opportunities and partnerships between the Hoosier State and the Eastern European republic. The Georgian group was organized by Bidzina Ivanishvili, Georgian businessmen and philanthropist. The delegation was hosted here by the Indiana Economic Development Corporation (IEDC) and the Energy Systems Network (ESN), an Indiana-based industry initiative focused on clean technology development.

In addition to Daniels and Hasler, the group met with top officials at Purdue University, Ivy Tech Community College, and leading Indiana companies focused in advanced manufacturing, energy technologies, and agriculture as well as local economic development leaders. While exploring a range of partnership opportunities with Indiana organizations, the group focused primarily on agriculture, workforce and education issues, the state's public policy environment and the business landscape for the commercialization and production of advanced energy technologies.

"When you look at Indiana's export and foreign investment trends, it's clear that a growing share of our state's economy relies on international partnerships," said Secretary of Commerce Hasler. "We embrace this chance to welcome and begin a productive dialogue with our friends from Georgia, and we look forward to many opportunities to work together in the future as partners."

Paul Mitchell, President & CEO of delegation co-host Energy Systems Network, agreed that the globalization of Indiana's economy made networking and collaboration with officials from trading partners like Georgia all the more important.

"We founded ESN as an Indiana initiative, while recognizing that the clean energy sector is truly global - that we must tap into expertise and alliances that span state and national borders to seize market opportunities," said Mitchell, whose Board of Directors includes international companies like ITOCHU Corporation and Toshiba. "So we see working with groups with similar ambitions from other nations as a key part of our mission, and we've enjoyed the opportunity to share and learn from our colleagues from Georgia."

The Georgian delegation – Revaz Gigilashvili, Tengiz Shergelashvili, Dr. Paata Tushurashvili and Maya Tskitishvili – was similarly pleased with the outcome of the visit and optimistic about future partnerships.

"With energy production and exports such a critical segment of Georgia's economy, it's important to connect with areas that are working to innovate and move forward in the energy sector," noted Bidzina Ivanishvili. "Our interest in agriculture and supporting a skilled workforce is also very similar to Indiana's – there is much we can continue to learn from one another, and we are confident that this trip marks only a first step."

*About Energy Systems Network: The Energy Systems Network (ESN) an initiative of the Central Indiana Corporate Partnership. It is a non-profit industry-driven economic organization focused on the development of the energy technology "cleantech" sector. ESN provides project development and coordination for joint ventures and cooperative partnerships between network members to bring new energy technologies to market. ESN partners include a wide range of Fortune 500 firms, emerging technology companies, and research and educational institutions with expertise in advanced technology vehicles, distributed power generation, advanced biofuels, renewable energy, and energy efficiency.*