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Subject: SolarWorld joins Suniva in trade complaint

By Esther Whieldon

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The U.S. arm of Germany's SolarWorld AG is joining Suniva's petition asking the Trump administration to impose trade restrictions on solar cells and modules imported into the U.S.

"We have hoped and waited for serious proposals for settling the overall U.S. solar industry's trade tensions with China, but we have received none," Juergen Stein, president of SolarWorld Americas, said in a statement today. "Therefore, we have decided to join the case to pursue the best remedy available to us to restore fair competition in the U.S. market."

A U.S. trade commission launched an investigation into Suniva's request on Tuesday.

The German parent company of SolarWorld Americas is going through its own bankruptcy proceeding in Germany and recently warned workers at its manufacturing plant in Oregon that there could be massive layoffs, noting the influx of cheaper solar cells and panels from Asian countries are putting it out of business.

SolarWorld Americas, the largest manufacturer of crystalline silicon photovoltaic panels in the U.S., previously won anti-dumping and countervailing duty sanctions against Chinese-made solar products in 2012.

WHAT'S NEXT: The commission expects to determine the extent to which the cheaper solar panels are causing injury by Sept. 22 and to send its recommendations to President Donald Trump by Nov. 13.

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