



For Immediate Release

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Jacqueline Gold, jgold@dcas.nyc.gov

DCAS FINALIZES CONTRACT FOR SOLAR PORTABLE LIGHT TOWERS; ZERO EMISSION, ZERO NOISE UNITS WILL REPLACE DIESEL GENERATORS

Effort comes as part of Mayor de Blasio's NYC Clean Fleet initiative

NEW YORK – Department of Citywide Administrative Services announced today the completion of a contract with Progress Solar Solutions for the supply of solar-electric, zero emission light towers for mobile fleet operations. In the next five years, DCAS and the City's major fleet operating agencies will switch existing diesel light towers for these clean, zero emission, and programmable units.

New York City currently operates more than 530 diesel light towers which provide emergency lighting and power generation for special events, emergencies, night-time repair operations, and added security citywide. Agencies using light towers include the NY Police Department (NYPD), the NYC Department of Transportation, the City's Office of Emergency Management, the Department of Sanitation, and NYC Parks. Current light towers burn heavily-polluting diesel fuel and are maintenance intensive, and time-consuming to turn on and off each evening.

In October 2015, Mayor de Blasio announced that the City's vehicle fleet will reduce greenhouse gas emissions 50% by 2025. Already the City has introduced more than 1,000 electric vehicles to advance this initiative. The City also operates and fuels more than 5,200 off-road units including these portable light towers and the new solar units will be critical to achieving NYC's greenhouse gas reduction goals.

The new light towers boast solar panels which will charge electric batteries on the units, providing zero emissions and fully autonomous lighting and power generation. These units will use improved LED lighting and are also programmable, eliminating the need for manual turn on and off. The solar units will save on fuel, maintenance, and operational costs, while being clean and quiet. In the last three years, NYC has piloted nine units at NYC Parks and with the NYPD. Both agencies served as partners with DCAS Fleet and Procurement on this initiative.

"Mayor de Blasio has challenged us to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from our fleet 50% by 2025," said **Lisette Camilo, commissioner of the Department of Citywide Administrative Services**. "Our fleet includes more than 5,200 critical off-road support units. These new solar light towers are an exciting step which will eliminate fuel use and improve the operations of this aspect of our fleet operations. "

“Meeting the City's ambitious climate goals will continue to require an unprecedented effort to reduce our energy use and secure more renewable energy sources,” said **Daniel Zarrilli, Senior Director of Climate Policy and Programs and Chief Resilience Officer for the NYC Mayor's Office**. “Today's announcement is one more way that New York City is stepping up with innovative solar and storage infrastructure that will support communities and City operations, all part of our OneNYC effort to build a more sustainable and resilient city.”

“While operationally essential, diesel light towers are fuel intensive, noisy, and costly to operate and maintain,” said **NYC Chief Fleet Officer Keith Kerman**. “These new solar-electric light towers will provide better lighting with zero emissions, zero fuel, and far less expense and hassle.”

Council Member Costa Constantinides, Chair of the City Council's Environmental Protection Committee, said, “Replacing our City's diesel generators with solar, emissions-free light towers will help bring us closer toward our goal of reducing emissions 80% by 2050. The new towers will produce better lighting, make less noise, and save money on fuel costs. These benefits will improve our quality-of-life and our environment at the same time. Thank you to DCAS Commissioner Camilo for leading the way on this important issue.”

“Each step taken to increase the use of zero-emissions electricity generators makes a positive impact in reducing the total amount of gas emissions produced in the city. The advantages of replacing fuel lights for advanced solar technology make New York an environmental city, improving the quality of life of all New Yorkers, especially those who live next to where these towers are placed,” said **Council Member Ydanis Rodriguez**. “Global warming is a real threat and NYC, as one of the most populated cities in the world, should keep implementing more measurements like this to help reduce the gas emissions produced by heat, electricity, and cooling which make more than 60% of the total amount of gas emissions produced by buildings.”

“Whether paving high-traffic roads like the FDR Drive or repairing our busy bridges, DOT work crews do a lot of our most important maintenance work at night,” said **Polly Trottenberg, commissioner of the Department of Transportation**. “We simply cannot do that work without high-powered lights, and so we are thrilled that DCAS will be taking the lead to replace diesel light towers with solar-powered LED lights that are quieter, more efficient and more sustainable. With more than 100 light towers in our own fleet, new solar light towers will be a welcome change that will make an enormous difference as we try to meet the City's ambitious environmental goals.”

“Following an emergency, we often deploy light towers to the scene so that responders can continue working seamlessly after dark,” said **NYC Emergency Management Commissioner Joseph Esposito**. “The new solar light towers will help to support emergency operations with a friendlier environmental footprint, and the additional power generation will be useful to charge electric batteries during power outages.”

NYC Parks Commissioner Mitchell Silver stated: “Parks was one of the first City agencies to utilize solar light towers to reduce emissions and noise in our open spaces. From managing one of the greenest fleets in the country, to cultivating green and white roofs across the city, we are

dedicated to meeting the ambitious goals outlined by Mayor de Blasio to reduce the impact of greenhouse gases on our environment.”

“CALSTART commends DCAS for continuing to build out New York City’s zero-emission energy infrastructure,” said **Alycia Gilde, Northeast Regional Director at CALSTART**. “There is a growing connection between renewable energy generation, storage, and transportation. By integrating Progress Solar Solutions’ light towers throughout the city, DCAS is both reducing emissions from its fleet operations and innovating the way renewable energy can be used to keep the city running 24-7, maintaining its leadership in clean transportation and energy efficiency management.”

NYC operates the largest municipal fleet in North America with more than 30,000 vehicles. Through Mayor de Blasio’s NYC Clean Fleet sustainability efforts, this fleet is also one of the largest alternative fuel fleets in the world, with 1,030 on-road electric vehicles, 5,700 hybrid vehicles, and more than 17,000 units that use alternative fuels, including biodiesel, natural gas, electric, and solar.

About DCAS:

The [Department of Citywide Administrative Services](#) (DCAS) ensures that all City agencies have the critical resources and support needed to provide the best possible services to the public. We do this in part through working with City agencies with needs in recruiting, hiring, and training; providing facilities management for 55 public buildings; purchasing, selling, and leasing City property; purchasing more than \$1 billion in supplies and equipment annually; and implementing conservation programs throughout City facilities. Follow us on [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), and [Facebook](#).

About CALSTART:

CALSTART is a member-supported organization of more than 175 firms, fleets, and agencies worldwide dedicated to supporting a growing high-tech transportation industry that cleans the air, creates jobs, cuts imported oil, and reduces global warming emissions. CALSTART provides services and consulting to spur advanced transportation technologies, fuels, systems, and the companies that make them.

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