

Media Release

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World-leading Australian solar technology for export under AP6

Federal Government supports Solar Systems' 1GW deployment plan

Solar Systems' mega scale solar power technology has been endorsed under the Asia Pacific Partnership on Clean Development and Climate (AP6), paving the way for deployment across partner countries.

The Prime Minister, John Howard, today announced the Action Plan for the AP6 Renewable Generation and Distributed Energy Task Force. Under the plan, Solar Systems was awarded an in-principle funding allocation from the Australian Government of up to \$5 million to support a pilot solar concentrator photovoltaic technology plant and facilitate deployment of the power stations across Partnership countries, in particular China and the United States.

The AP6 brings together Australia, China, India, Japan, Republic of Korea, and the United States to meet goals for energy security, national air pollution reduction and climate change in ways that promote sustainable economic growth and poverty reduction.

Last week Solar Systems announced the demonstration of its unique, world-leading technology in a 154MW solar power station connected to the national electricity grid. This \$420 million project is going ahead because of the combined \$125 million funding support announced by the Howard and Bracks governments. The Australian Government funding announced today through the AP6 will support the construction of the first 2MW of this power station and promote subsequent rollout of the technology across China and the US.

The AP6 project 'High Efficiency Solar Power Stations for Affordable Energy' aims to deploy over 1GW of solar power stations across Australia, China and the United States of America. Solar Systems patented technology generates electricity with zero greenhouse gas emissions and the first large-scale power station will produce the most affordable solar power yet generated.

Solar Systems' mega scale solar power technology is known as '**HelioStat Concentrator Photovoltaic**' (HCPV). It will consist of fields of heliostats (sun-tracking mirrors) focusing sunlight at 500 times sun concentration onto central receivers. The receivers house photovoltaic (PV) modules, which consist of ultra high-efficiency solar cells that convert the sunlight directly into electricity. Photovoltaic literally means 'electricity-from-light'.

This technology is highly repeatable: one field of heliostats and central receiver, which has a capacity of about 2MW, can be replicated over and over to make up a total power station.

Stage One of the power station in Victoria will demonstrate the first 2MW of the mega scale technology. This 2MW technology configuration will be installed repeatedly to make up the total 154MW power station and can also be repeated to construct power stations across Australia and overseas.



Australian company Solar Systems has been commercialising solar concentrator photovoltaic technology since 2000, following 10 years of research and development. The company has invested over \$50 million over this 16-year timeframe.

The commercialisation process has already seen four smaller solar power stations established in central Australia, with support from the Australian Greenhouse Office.

Today's AP6 announcement will support the further commercialisation of Solar Systems' technology.

Solar Systems Managing Director Dave Holland said that the company had plans to roll out large-scale solar technology across Australia and internationally.

"The company now has the government support to build a new industry that will create more than 10,000 permanent jobs," Mr Holland said.

"Solar Systems' commercialisation plans are about harnessing the greatest, fully sustainable energy resource the world has. Less than 1% of the world's arid lands could produce the world's energy needs using Solar Systems' current technology - without harmful emissions or concern about finite fuel supply."

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