

Media Release

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Solar Systems to produce 24-hour solar power

Today Environment Minister Malcolm Turnbull and Minister for Industry, Tourism and Resources Ian Macfarlane announced that Solar Systems and the Australian Government will jointly fund commercialisation of Solar Systems' baseload solar power technology.

Melbourne-based company Solar Systems will have the capability to produce solar electricity at night and during cloud with the commercialisation of its patented hydrogen production and storage technology.

This technology will make Solar Systems' solar power stations capable of generating electricity on demand, known as baseload power production. Solar Systems' highly efficient baseload solar power technology has already been demonstrated on a small scale. Today's Australian Government announcement will enable scale up and commercialisation of the technology for installation at its solar power stations.

Solar Systems' baseload solar power commercialisation program represents a \$62 million investment over a seven-year timeframe. The Australian Government and Solar Systems will each contribute \$5 million in funding to Stage One of the program that will enable Solar Systems to complete the research and development phase of the technology and deliver the design of a commercial-scale demonstration plant.

Solar Systems Managing Director Dave Holland recognised the significance of this announcement in saying:

"This Australian Government funding will bring us a major step closer to mainstream solar power production – overcoming the intermittency of energy from the sun.

"Our company aims to make solar power a significant part of the Australian and international energy supply mix.

"The capability for baseload production, added to Solar Systems achievements in cost reduction will open up Solar Systems' potential market and allow it to compete amongst mainstream power technologies.

"This funding announcement will build on Solar Systems' focussed efforts and investment over the last 17 years into making solar power a viable technology for large-scale national and international deployment.

"We now have 4 power stations operating commercially in central Australia with further remote power stations in the planning stages and a \$420 million 154MW solar power station under development in the north-west of Victoria." The Victorian power station has received \$75 million in Australian Government (LETDF) and \$50 million from the Victorian Government's (ETIS).

"Solar Systems recently announced it is making a \$22 million investment in a new manufacturing facility in Melbourne that will supply high-tech components to an increasing number of projects in Australia and internationally. The company is also about to begin construction of a \$10 million R&D facility near Bendigo in central Victoria.

Solar Systems Technical Director John Lasich, who conducted the initial solar hydrogen demonstrations says "We've already achieved a solar energy conversion efficiency in commercial power stations that is similar to the efficiency of fossil fuel generation. We can now begin to commercialise hydrogen technology to generate 24-hour power from the sun"

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