

## Media Release

20 March 2008

### Power boost for SA solar power station

Melbourne company Solar Systems is upgrading the Umuwa solar power station in northern South Australia with the latest technology.

Today Australian Government Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts Peter Garrett announced that the Australian and South Australian Governments would fund a \$1.1 million upgrade of the solar power station.

The solar power station at Umuwa consists of ten solar dishes. Solar Systems' solar dishes are each 14 metres high with solar concentrating mirrors, sun-tracking capability and high performance photovoltaic receivers. The Umuwa power station was commissioned in 2003 to generate clean electricity that offsets the use of diesel for electricity generation.

A full power system upgrade has occurred at Umuwa that has seen the electricity grid extended to include more regional communities and a new diesel power station installed. Generation at the solar power station was ceased during the power system upgrade.

Now the upgrade is complete, the Australian and South Australian Governments are funding Solar Systems to upgrade the solar power station with the latest technology, including more efficient solar photovoltaic cells for greater power output and the latest technology in control and operating systems.

With the installation of new solar cells, the rated power station capacity will increase from 220 kW<sub>DC</sub> to 350 kW<sub>DC</sub>.

Solar Systems Managing Director Dave Holland says, "Solar Systems continues to work to increase the efficiency of its systems. Significant advancements in the specialised photovoltaic cell technology that Solar Systems uses have been made since the original commissioning of the system in 2003.

"The efficiency of the cells at Umuwa will now be 35%, up from 22% that was state of the art in 2002, resulting in a power boost for the South Australian power station.

"Solar Systems designs its power station so that upgrades are possible when technology improves. This is now being demonstrated at the Umuwa power station."

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