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Solar Systems and Boeing enter Agreement

Canberra – 14 August 2006

Large-scale solar power stations got a step closer today when Solar Systems and Boeing agreed to go into commercial production of the worlds highest efficiency solar photovoltaic technology for solar power stations.

Solar Systems and Spectrolab, a Boeing Company based in California have been collaborating on the optimization of the Spectrolab multi-junction solar cells for use in Solar Systems' existing CS500 dish systems. The solar cells, which are 3 times more efficient than those used in typical solar panels, were originally designed for "extra terrestrial applications" – powering satellites. The two companies have adapted and optimised the technology for terrestrial use and today begin the first commercial terrestrial deployment of this type of technology in the world.

The technical outcomes of the joint work were demonstrated in April when the worlds' first full scale ultra high efficiency PV generator was put into operation. Solar Systems upgraded one of it's CS500 dishes at a power station it operates in Hermannsburg (central Australia) from approximately 24kW to 35kW simply by replacing the existing silicon PV modules with the new MJ cell based modules. The process took only 2 hours and the output of the system increased by more than 50%.

"This contract is an important step in changing the economics of solar power", said Dave Holland, Managing Director of Solar Systems. The amount and cost of photovoltaic material required to generate electricity has been a key determining factor in the high cost of solar power. "By combining our technologies we now need just 15cm x 15cm (0.02m²) of PV to generate enough power to run an average household. This compares with about 20m² of traditional roof mounted flat plate PV – 1,000 times more".

The commercial outcome of the collaboration has been demonstrated today as Spectrolab and Solar Systems enter into a multi million dollar agreement for the initial

supply of 500,000 cells - more than 11MW at the current efficiency. The breakthrough will have a major impact on solar energy markets as it creates a new benchmark in both system efficiency and costs.

Solar Systems has applied for Low Emission Technology Demonstration Fund (LETDF) assistance for a 154MW solar power station in northern Victoria. “This 154MW power station will be the largest PV project in the world by an order of magnitude. The goal is to create the critical mass that is required to enable the technology to be value competitive on the grid” Holland said. The Victorian project is the first phase of a plan to deploy more than 1,000 MWs across Australia, China and the United States in a \$2.5Billion project under the Asia-Pacific Partnership on Clean Development and Climate.

The contract was signed today by Dave Holland, Managing Director of Solar Systems Pty Ltd and Rod Drury, of Boeing Australia Limited in Canberra in the presence of Senator the Hon. Ian Campbell, Australian Minister for the Environment and Heritage and Harlan Watson, Senior Climate Negotiator and Special Representative on Climate Change for the United States Department of State.

Solar Systems Pty Ltd is based in Melbourne Australia. The company has developed, and is deploying world leading solar power station technology and already has several power stations in central Australia. www.solarsystems.com.au

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