

Media Release

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Solar power comes to town

Alice Springs to become solar power central as the Australian Government announces 'Solar Cities' success

Multiple installations of large solar dishes will track the sun each day to provide clean energy in one of Australia's sunniest urban locations.

Solar Systems' solar dish technology forms part of a proposal that has succeeded in gaining Australian Government support under the 'Solar Cities' funding program. The proposal includes a suite of solar and energy efficiency technologies.

Minister for the Environment Malcolm Turnbull and Minister for Industry Ian Macfarlane today announced Alice Springs' success in attracting more than \$12 million in a process that has seen consortiums around Australia compete to become Solar Cities.

Solar Systems' Managing Director, Dave Holland says "this project announcement represents the next step along the company's commercialisation pathway, which has already seen smaller solar dish power stations installed at remote indigenous townships, including Hermannsburg, Yuendumu and Lajamanu in the Northern Territory.

"Today's announcement means that high performance solar dishes will now be integrated in an urban environment.

"Alice Springs has some of the most abundant sunlight in the world, making it an ideal location for our high-performance solar technology.

"Once the solar dishes are built, they will be connected to the grid and generate electricity for Alice Springs directly from the sun, offsetting some of the requirement to transport fossil fuels long distances for power generation. This Solar Cities model for solar power generation can be replicated in towns across the country.

"The solar dishes are an Australian innovation and are ideal for locations where it is typically very sunny and costly to provide diesel or gas."

Each solar dish consists of a 14-metre diameter mirrored surface that concentrates sunlight by 500 times onto ultra-efficient photovoltaic cells. The term 'photovoltaic' literally means 'electricity from sunlight'.

Melbourne-based Solar Systems is continuing to expand installations of solar dishes across Australia. The company is working on further projects for the Northern Territory, Queensland, Western Australia and South Australia. The success of these projects will enable a 'production line' operation to increase the cost-effectiveness of the technology.

Alice Springs Town Council Mayor Fran Kilgariff is serious about local growth in renewable energy. She says, "Alice Springs has access to a world-class solar energy resource. Solar Systems' technology offers a significant part of the solution to harness this clean resource for our community.

"I've been a major supporter of Alice Springs' bid to become a Solar City and I'm very pleased about this successful announcement today."



Solar Systems congratulates the Alice Springs Town Council and all consortium members in the success of the Alice Springs Solar Cities bid.

Solar Systems National Sales Manager, Graeme Pollock praised the consortium's efforts, "The successful bid has been the result of a huge amount of hard work and dedication by the Alice Springs Town Council and the consortium leaders, along with strong support from the NT Government, PowerWater Corporation and the Alice Springs community.

"Congratulations to Mayor Kilgariff, Grant Behrendorff and the team."

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For further information and image requests, contact Julia Birch, Solar Systems, +61 3 8862 8100