

Update on Australian Solar Institute activities, including U.S – Australia Solar Energy Collaboration

ASI Solar Energy Forecasting Workshop

November 11, 2011

Our Strategic Focus Areas





About the Australian Solar Institute

- Australian Government initiative for R&D into solar PV and CST technologies. Newcastle, NSW HQ
- ASI-funded solar R&D projects in research institutions and companies around Australia and internationally, supporting 100+ Australian researchers
- c\$200m portfolio of solar R&D projects leveraged by c \$64m of Australian Government funding at ratio of 2:1+
- Australian Government's \$1.5 billion Solar Flagships
 Program sharing learnings
- International engagement USASEC; Fraunhofer Institute MoU; DLR MoU; strategic engagement with Asia



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Investment Update

- Rd 3 full applications and proposals under the Australia-Germany Collaborative Solar R&D Funding Call assessed during Nov 2011 with funding decisions anticipated Dec 2011
- U.S.-Australia Solar Energy Collaboration Foundation Projects and inaugural Research Exchange awardees





United States – Australia Solar Energy Collaboration

- November 2010 announcement by PM Gillard and Secretary of State Clinton
- Objective: collaboration between U.S. and Australia in solar research to accelerate pace of innovation beyond that which either country can achieve on its own
 - Information exchange
 - Research scholarships and laboratory exchange
 - Funding of country-specific portions of joint research projects
- A\$50m Australian Government commitment, managed by ASI
- 4 Foundation Project research areas:
 - Hot carrier solar cells
 - Multi-junction c-Si PV devices
 - High temperature receivers



Measurements and characterisation

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USASEC (cont)

Current priorities

- Proposed strategic research initiative
 - Longer-term program funding to complement project funding
 - Anticipated A\$3-4m p.a. over 5-7 years to support nodes of activity in PV and CSP
 - Consortium of university, lab and industry participants
- Industry-focused funding round
 - Applied R&D
 - High value, differentiated applications of technology
- Expand research personnel exchange program
 - Build on first round of outbound Australian researchers



Capacity Building Update

- Currently supporting 4 PhD Scholars and 4 Postdoctoral Fellows
- Applications closed late October for PhD
 Scholarships and Postdoctoral Fellowships, for applicants intending to commence study in Feb 2012





Capacity Building Update (cont)

- Solar Energy Forecasting Workshop at International Conference Energy & Meteorology 2011
 - Contribute to development of Australian Solar Energy Forecasting System, to facilitate large scale solar deployment
- CSP Review
 - IT Power undertaking review of the potential for concentrated solar power in Australia
 - Stakeholder workshops planned for late Nov 2011 in Sydney, Brisbane and Melbourne



Plans & Priorities

- Grow investment portfolio and further develop USASEC incl. a Special Research Initiative, industryfocused funding round and enabling research
- Develop knowledge-sharing portal relating to ASI's portfolio, Solar Flagships Program and solar development generally
- Build capacity through support for people, seminars, and strategic roadmaps
- Continue to establish international partnerships
- ASI to form part of the Australian Renewable Energy
 Agency (ARENA) by end 2012

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Thank you

Olivia Coldrey
Investment Director
Australian Solar Institute

T: +61 2 4960 6300

E: www.australiansolarinstitute.com.au

