



MEDIA RELEASE

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FACT SHEET 6:

\$18.5 MILLION INVESTMENT IN SOLAR INNOVATORS

The latest Australian Solar Institute (ASI) funding for solar energy will leverage investment of more than \$67 million in innovative technologies to help drive down the costs and bring forward the deployment of solar energy technologies in Australia.

The five projects will receive grants worth a total of \$18.5 million administered by the Australian Solar Institute, which is part of the Australian Government's \$5.1 billion expanded Clean Energy Initiative.

Technology development to improve reliability and reduce costs is critical to drive the widespread deployment of solar energy in Australia.

This investment is designed to drive down start-up costs in the solar industry and help overcome some of the early obstacles to deploying solar technologies on a larger scale, for example, through funding pilot projects or advanced research.

The latest grants are:

- \$5.0 million for a \$24.1 million project run by the University of New South Wales in collaboration with Silex Solar and Suntech Power to improve the performance of screen printed solar PV cells;
- \$2.25 million for a \$5.4 million project run by BT Imaging Pty Ltd to improve the performance of photovoltaic manufacturing;
- \$2.25 million for a \$15.6 million project run by Sapphicon Semiconductor Pty Ltd to develop a high-efficiency solar module on a wafer based thin film;
- \$4.0 million for a \$9.0 million project run by CSIRO and the Australian National University to develop advanced solar thermal energy storage technologies; and
- \$4.95 million for an Australian National University led \$13.4 million applied research project in collaboration with industry partner, Transform Solar (an Origin Energy JV) to help develop the next generation of solar cells.

Further details can be found on the ASI website at www.australiansolarinstitute.com.au

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