



Media Release

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ARENA selects 22 large-scale solar projects to take next step

The Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA) today announced the short-list of projects invited to progress to the next stage of its \$100 million large-scale solar photovoltaic (PV) competitive round.

ARENA CEO, Ivor Frischknecht, said the expression of interest (EOI) phase had attracted strong interest, including several new entrants to the market, and the overall quality of proposals was high.

“ARENA received 77 eligible EOIs and has selected 22 high merit projects to proceed to the full application stage with submissions due by 15 June 2016,” Mr Frischknecht said.

“The projects are located in all mainland states and have a total capacity of 766 megawatts (MW). Each project was able to demonstrate its cost of energy was below the threshold of \$135 per MWh, with some projecting costs significantly below this threshold level.

“More than three times the amount of funding available through the ARENA competitive round has been requested for the 22 projects, with an ask of approximately \$332 million for projects totalling \$1.68 billion.

“The strong interest and high-quality applications demonstrate Australia is serious about deploying large-scale solar and capitalising on its abundant solar resources.”

ARENA’s \$100 million competitive round was announced on 9 September 2015 and is designed to bring down costs through the deployment of 200 MW of large-scale solar PV.

Mr Frischknecht said the funding round was well timed to drive innovation and reduce solar PV supply chain costs in Australia, where large-scale solar was still in its infancy.

“It is clear that large-scale solar has the potential to become one of the most competitive forms of energy in the world,” Mr Frischknecht said.

“It is also clear that, despite our significant solar advantages, Australia has some work to do to catch up to countries with more mature large-scale solar industries – our grid-connected large-scale solar capacity will shortly reach 240 MW and is generated by a only a handful of solar plants.

“Through this competitive round, ARENA’s support will ensure a series of large-scale solar projects get off the ground and will help move large-scale solar costs in Australia further down the cost curve, potentially to less than \$100 per MWh by 2020.”

ARENA plans to publish aggregated analysis of the EOIs in February to provide the sector with insight about cost and generation parameters.

A number of those short-listed are seeking project finance from the Clean Energy Finance Corporation (CEFC) under its \$250 million large-scale solar program. The CEFC’s finance complements ARENA’s program but also supports other solar projects and programs with loan requirements of \$15 million or more, targeted at unlocking additional private sector investment in the large-scale solar sector.

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The 22 projects selected to proceed from the EOI stage of ARENA's \$100 million large-scale solar PV round to the full application stage (due 15 June 2016) are listed in the table below (by MW).

Organisation	Project	Town	State	MW
Origin Energy Limited	Darling Downs Solar Farm	Dalby	QLD	106.8
Gannawarra Solar Farm Pty Ltd	Gannawarra Solar Farm	Kerang	VIC	52.8
Syncline Energy Pty Ltd	Bannerton Solar Park	Bannerton	VIC	51.2
FRV Services Australia Pty Ltd	Baralaba Solar Farm	Baralaba	QLD	50.0
Genex Power Limited	Kidston Solar Project	Kidston	QLD	50.0
KCSF Consortium	North Queensland Solar Farm	Proserpine	QLD	50.0
Neoen Australia Pty Ltd	Parkes Solar Farm	Parkes	NSW	46.0
Infigen Energy	Manildra Solar Farm	Manildra	NSW	42.4
RATCH Australia Corporation Limited	Collinsville Solar Power Station	Collinsville	QLD	42.0
Infigen Energy	Capital Solar Farm	Bungendore	NSW	39.0
SF Suntech Australia Pty Ltd	Griffith Solar Farm	Griffith	NSW	33.9
Neoen Australia Pty Ltd	Griffith Solar Farm	Griffith	NSW	26.4
Canadian Solar (Australia) Pty Ltd	Oakey Solar Farm	Oakey	QLD	25.0
Neoen Australia Pty Ltd	Dubbo Solar Hub	Dubbo	NSW	22.4
APA Group	Emu Downs Solar Farm	Cervantes	WA	20.1
Goldwind Australia Pty Ltd	White Rock Solar Farm	Glen Innes	NSW	20.0
Kennedy Energy Park Pty Ltd	Kennedy Energy Park	Hughenden	QLD	19.2
Lyon Infrastructure Investments Pty Ltd	Roxby Downs Solar Farm	Roxby Downs	SA	17.0
Canadian Solar (Australia) Pty Ltd	Longreach Solar Farm	Longreach	QLD	15.0
Overland Sun Farming Company Pty Ltd	Hughenden Sun Farm	Hughenden	QLD	14.2
EPHO Pty Ltd	Gidginbung Solar Farm	Temora	NSW	12.2
juwi Renewable Energy Pty Ltd	Ebenezer Solar Project	Ipswich	QLD	10.0

About ARENA

ARENA was established by the Australian Government to make renewable energy technologies more affordable and increase the supply of renewable energy in Australia. ARENA invests in renewable energy projects, supports research and development activities, boosts job creation and industry development, and increases knowledge about renewable energy. ARENA has a portfolio of more than 240 supported projects and is actively seeking new projects to fund in 2016.