

Media Release

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Moveable solar power shifts closer to commercial reality

Laing O'Rourke's moveable solar-diesel power plant with advanced control systems has been successfully piloted and will be commercialised through the newly formed SunSHIFT Pty Ltd.

Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA) CEO Ivor Frischknecht said the innovative project showed how funding support for early stage renewable energy solutions can pave the way for new products and companies to enter the Australian market.

"ARENA initially provided funding for a feasibility study and then a pilot project, and Laing O'Rourke has now established clean energy company SunSHIFT to commercialise its moveable solar-diesel hybrid power plant," Mr Frischknecht said.

"Scalability, quick set up and easy pack down presents an ideal solution for many off-grid applications where temporary power is required such as construction projects, mine sites and disaster relief. It also allows solar panels to be re-used several times for greater value.

"The system performed as expected during the six month trial period and pack-up was impressively carried out by four people in just four days.

"This successful demonstration project has given Laing O'Rourke the confidence to commit to further developing its technology and is a crucial step in proving the technical and commercial viability of moveable, modular renewable energy concepts more broadly."

ARENA provided \$410,000 support for the feasibility and design work and a further \$450,000 for this latest \$1.8 million demonstration project.

SunSHIFT General Manager and Laing O'Rourke Clean Tech Leader Dr Will Rayward-Smith said that careful selection of partners greatly contributed to the success of the project.

"ARENA's grant funding support has been crucial to the project's success so far. ABB's robust microgrid solutions combined with SunPower's high-performance solar panels enabled the system to perform fault-free for the trial period," Dr Rayward-Smith said.

"SunSHIFT provides the financial and carbon benefits of solar with the speed of deployment, flexibility and modularity of a conventional diesel or gas generator. This is music to the ears of off-grid electricity consumers. Further, due to the flexibility and mobility of the technology, we can provide systems on offtake agreements as short as five years with rollover or buy-out options or through upfront purchase with buy-back options."

"The market has reacted very positively. We are fielding enquiries for multi-megawatt SunSHIFT systems from domestic mining sites and remote communities, and overseas from emerging economies. It is exciting to be providing solar in a format that meets the needs of the off-grid market. We are giving solar a residual value profile, avoiding stranded asset risk and decoupling asset life from end-user life."

A report on the technical and commercial lessons learnt from the deployment, which may be useful to inform the development other moveable solar projects, is [now available](#).

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. Through the provision of funding coupled with deep commercial and technical expertise, ARENA provides the support needed to accelerate the development of promising new solutions towards commercialisation. ARENA invests in renewable energy projects across the innovation chain and is committed to sharing knowledge and lessons learned from its portfolio of projects and information about renewable energy. To date, ARENA has committed \$1.1 billion in funding to more than 250 projects, leveraging more than 1.5 times that amount from additional funding sources. For more information, visit www.arena.gov.au.

About SunSHIFT

SunSHIFT Pty Ltd is a clean energy company formed by Laing O'Rourke and focussed on the commercialisation of its large-scale, modular, moveable solar photovoltaic system technology, *SunSHIFT*. Primary markets for the technology include off-grid mining operations and remote communities with preferences for short-term contracted power supply. Further information can be found at sunshift.com.au.

About Laing O'Rourke

Laing O'Rourke is an A\$7 billion global construction company dedicated to engineering excellence. With operations in Australia for more than 50 years, Laing O'Rourke delivers building construction, railway services, materials handling, marine and civil infrastructure and a range of support services to clients in the oil and gas, resources, transport, defence, health, commercial and industrial sectors. Laing O'Rourke is the largest privately-owned construction and engineering firm in Australia. www.laingorourke.com.