

## **Knowledge sharing for your project under R&D Round 3: Solar PV Research**

### ***Guidance for filling out your Knowledge Sharing Plan***

#### **What is knowledge sharing?**

ARENA is required to promote the sharing of knowledge and information under the *Australian Renewable Energy Act 2011* (ARENA Act). Knowledge sharing therefore forms an integral part of ARENA-funded projects. It involves collecting, analysing, interpreting and disseminating information and knowledge relating to renewable energy technologies and projects. This can take many forms, from public reports, to closed-door workshops and forums, to blog posts and videos, to public presentations.

ARENA funds innovative projects in order to improve the competitiveness of renewable energy and increase the supply of renewable energy in Australia. Knowledge sharing aims to enhance the impact of project funding on these objectives. By sharing knowledge from an ARENA-funded project with a wider audience, ARENA aims to ensure that project lessons learnt, insight and data can be accessed and applied beyond the immediate project consortium. This is part of an efficient strategy to get maximum value from the money we invest.

#### **Knowledge sharing for R&D projects**

ARENA understands that researchers are already highly motivated to share knowledge from their research through academic publications and conference presentations. ARENA strongly supports the sharing of project results through academic forums and will look at journal publications and conference presentations in evaluating project success.

As a general principle, a funding recipient's contractual obligations to share knowledge (i.e. the Knowledge Sharing Plan (KSP)) should not include activities that would happen anyway, i.e. routine sharing of knowledge via academic platforms. The ARENA KSP should focus on knowledge sharing that is additional to this 'business as usual' sharing of project results within academia.

Specifically, ARENA aims to focus knowledge sharing under the KSP on:

- Sharing Project outcomes, insights, data, and knowledge with a wider public and industry audience, beyond the field of academic research. In considering this, project proponents should consider measures to make academic journal articles and conference papers freely available online, and measures to communicate project outcomes in a non-academic way to relevant industry audiences and the general public.
- Sharing project outcomes, insights, data, and knowledge in a way that may accelerate the commercialisation of the technologies or tools under development through the project. This can include:
  - Innovative approaches to sharing project knowledge within the project consortium, where that consortium includes industry partners; and/or

- Sharing project knowledge with potential industry partners (both Australian and overseas) not currently within the project consortium.

The only exception to the above is where the project is led by a company and not a university or research institution. For such project, ARENA will want to see evidence that the project proponent intends to share its findings in academic journals and conferences.

### **ARENA's role in knowledge sharing**

ARENA can play an important role in project knowledge sharing by hosting knowledge sharing outcomes on its website, and by connecting renewable energy researchers and industry players. ARENA's support for the annual Asia-Pacific Solar Research Conference is an example of ARENA's ability to bring different stakeholders together to share knowledge. ARENA's [Knowledge Bank](#) provides examples of knowledge sharing deliverables from other projects.

ARENA will consider suggestions from shortlisted project applicants regarding any additional role that ARENA can play in enhancing project knowledge sharing through its communications channels and the convening role that it plays in the renewable energy sector. This can be included either in the Knowledge Sharing Plan or as part of the response to Merit Criterion E in the full application form on ARENANet.

### **Filling out the template Knowledge Sharing Plan**

The KSP template has three sections:

First, a **mandatory** *Knowledge Sharing Deliverables* section. This should provide a chronological table of knowledge sharing deliverables and activities for the project.

Second, an **optional** *Project Data* section. This section should be filled out only if the project will generate raw datasets that will be shared publicly. If the proponent does not intend to release significant raw datasets as part of the Project this entire section can be deleted.

Third, an **optional** *Knowledge Sharing Partner* section. This section should be included only if the project proponent intends to partner with other organisations to deliver knowledge sharing. Knowledge Sharing Partners can be engaged to provide analytical or communications services on an ongoing basis to fulfil the knowledge sharing deliverables within the KSP. They can also be engaged to provide ongoing strategic advice and guidance on how knowledge sharing deliverables should be designed and executed.

#### *Filling out the Knowledge Sharing Deliverables table*

- Start with the column entitled 'Why - Project Outcomes'. Ensure that Project outcomes are aligned with Project outcomes identified in the full application on ARENANet.

- Move onto the column entitled 'What? Knowledge to be shared from deliverable'. This should summarise the knowledge that would need to be shared to support achieving the identified project outcome.
- Next, move to the column entitled 'Who - Audience(s)'. Consider what kind of audience would need to receive the knowledge to be shared (identified in the column to the left) in order to achieve the Project outcomes.
- Now you know what knowledge should be shared, and with whom, in order to achieve a project outcome. You should be able to use this to identify an appropriate deliverable in the 'How - Deliverable' column. Ensure that you choose a deliverable that delivers the knowledge to be shared in a way that the identified audience would find compelling.
- Consider when would be the most appropriate time to deliver knowledge sharing from the project in the 'When - Project Stage' column. Ensure that you seek to stage knowledge sharing deliverables so that knowledge sharing is delivered at different stages through the project and are not all bunched at the end of the Project.
- Finally, consider whether there may be any major restrictions on the dissemination of knowledge identified in the KSP and why such restrictions are necessary.