



# **MEDIA RELEASE**

**Senator the Hon Penny Wong**

*Minister for Climate Change and Water*

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## **AUSTRALIAN SOLAR TECHNOLOGY SHINES**

Minister for Climate Change and Water, Senator Penny Wong, today welcomed the launch of a major new joint venture to build what is expected to be the biggest and most efficient solar power plant in the world.

Australian company Solar Systems and TRUenergy will construct the \$420 million photovoltaic solar plant in northern Victoria. TRUenergy is a subsidiary of the China Light and Power Group, one of the largest power utilities in Asia.

Senator Wong said the project would use world-leading technology developed by Solar Systems, drawing on high performance solar cells originally developed to power satellites. When completed it is expected to produce enough clean energy to power up to 45,000 homes.

The Australian Government will contribute up to \$79.5 million towards the project, with the Victorian Government also providing \$50 million to help make it happen.

“This ground-breaking solar project is a spectacular example of Australian technological innovation supported by the Australian Government’s and Victorian Government’s commitment to a clean energy future,” Senator Wong said.

“The Rudd Government will ensure that 20 per cent of Australia’s energy comes from renewable sources by 2020, and is committed to emissions cuts of 60 per cent from 2000 levels by 2050.”

“This decision by Solar Systems and TRUenergy to invest in solar manufacturing, and research and development in Australia represents a strong vote of confidence in our renewable energy policies.

“It shows there are great business opportunities in renewable energy.

“Not only will it provide job opportunities in Victoria, it could also provide export opportunities particularly in the Asia-Pacific region.”

Senator Wong said the Government was also supporting the renewable energy industry through measures such as the \$500 million Renewable Energy Fund, \$150 million Energy Innovation Fund, \$489 million National Solar Schools Program, and solar hot water and solar power rebates for homes and communities.