

MEDIA RELEASE

Jenny Goddard
Chair, Australian Solar Institute Board

9 November 2009



01/2009

AUSTRALIAN SOLAR INSTITUTE CEO AND RESEARCH ADVISORY COMMITTEE APPOINTED

The Board of the Australian Solar Institute Limited (ASI) is delighted to announce the appointment of Mr Mark Twidell as the inaugural CEO of the ASI. Mr Twidell will also be a Director on the Board. He takes up his position as full-time CEO/Executive Director of the ASI on 9 November 2009.

The ASI is a \$100m commitment by the Australian Government. Its mission is *“to proactively foster and support excellent research and development in Australia to accelerate commercial deployment of photovoltaic and concentrating solar thermal technologies”*. The ASI will strategically drive collaborative R&D aimed at having a major impact on the efficiency and cost-effectiveness of solar technologies, for the benefit of the Australian solar community and the Australian public. It will also disseminate the economic and technical learnings from solar research and deployment programs and will act as a catalyst and champion for Australia's leadership strengths in solar R&D.

Mr Twidell brings to the position strong solar technological and commercial expertise as well as significant private sector senior executive experience both in Australia and internationally. He worked with BP for over 20 years, most recently as BP Solar's Performance Unit Leader for global commercial operations outside of Europe and the USA. He was appointed to the ASI on merit from amongst a strong field. Mark will lead a small, high quality ASI staff team headquartered in Newcastle, NSW. This team includes ASI's two newly appointed Research Investment Managers, Ms Olivia Coldrey and Ms Anwen Lovett.

“Mark Twidell brings to the ASI a rare combination of technological and commercial expertise, extensive networks, strong management skills and a genuine passion for the ongoing development of solar technologies”, Ms Jenny Goddard, Chair of the ASI said.

The Board is also pleased to announce the appointment of Dr Alex Wonhas to the Board of the ASI. Dr Wonhas is employed by CSIRO as Director of CSIRO's Energy Transformed Flagship. Mr Twidell and Dr Wonhas join the previously announced Board appointees Jenny Goddard (Chair), Mike Sargent, Peter Thomas, Michael Cardew-Hall and Jason Coombs on the now fully-constituted 7 person Board.

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The Board is also pleased to announce appointments to the ASI's Research Advisory Committee (RAC). The RAC will advise the ASI Board and staff to inform strategic planning and will perform robust assessments of applications for ASI R&D funding.

"The Board is particularly pleased that many of Australia's leading and internationally renowned solar technology and technology commercialisation experts have accepted the Board's invitation to join the Research Advisory Committee", Ms Goddard said. "This world class group will greatly assist the Board to make strategic investments in excellent R&D proposals and in building respected international partnerships". The Board has in place appropriate mechanisms and procedures to manage any potential conflicts of interest that may arise.

The Research Advisory Committee will be chaired by Dr Bruce Godfrey and will comprise Professor Martin Green (UNSW), Professor Andrew Holmes (University of Melb), Professor Andrew Blakers (ANU), Mr Wes Stein (CSIRO) Professor Phillip Jennings (Murdoch University), Mr Peter Meurs (Worley Parsons) and Dr Muriel Watt (IT Power). Professor Keith Lovegrove (ANU) and Dr Gerry Wilson (CSIRO) will temporarily join the RAC for its initial round of application assessments. The ASI also expects to draw on selected international experts as needed to assist in assessing funding applications.

"The ASI is now well and truly up and running. The Board and key staff have been appointed and first round competitive R&D funding proposals from industry and research institutions are currently being assessed", Ms Goddard said.

"I would like to thank the Interim CEO, Dr Bruce Godfrey, other members of the interim staff team and members of the ASI Establishment Committee for their hard work in establishing the ASI and in launching the initial funding round, which closed on 16 October", Ms Goddard said.

Further details of all appointees are attached. Further information on ASI is available at www.australiansolarinstitute.com.au

Media contact: Jenny Goddard, Chair of ASI Board 0408 646 620

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ATTACHMENT

DETAILS OF THE AUSTRALIAN SOLAR INSTITUTE APPOINTEES

Executive Director:

Mr Mark Twidell is the full time Executive Director of the ASI. Mr Twidell has over 20 years' experience in the solar industry. He was formerly Solar Performance Unit Leader at BP Solar and has extensive international experience in the solar energy sector.

Board:

Dr Alex Wonhas is the Director of the Energy Transformed Flagship at CSIRO. Prior to his appointment to this position in August 2009, he was Associate Principal at McKinsey & Company where he consulted in the areas of resources, energy and climate change. Dr Wonhas holds a PhD in theoretical physics from the University of Cambridge.

Research Advisory Committee:

Dr Bruce Godfrey (Chair) is an experienced CEO whose career has been built in business, investment, government and research fields. Through Wyld Group Pty Ltd he is applying this experience and knowledge to the advancement and commercialisation of technologies, investment readiness of products and companies, and innovation policy and programs.

Scientia Professor Martin Green FAA FTSE is Scientia Professor at the University of NSW and Executive Research Director of the ARC Photovoltaic Centre of Excellence. He is also a Director of CSG Solar, which commercialises UNSW's thin-film, polycrystalline-silicon-on-glass solar cell. His group has developed the world's highest-efficiency silicon solar cells.

Professor Andrew Holmes AM FRS FAA FTSE is a CSIRO Fellow, University of Melbourne Laureate Professor of Chemistry and Distinguished Research Fellow at Imperial College. In Australia he has led a national consortium of researchers who are developing thin film organic and polymeric materials for excitonic and dye sensitised solar cells.

Professor Andrew Blakers is the Foundation Director of the Centre for Sustainable Energy Systems at the Australian National University and Director of the ARC Centre of Excellence for Solar Energy Systems. Particular interests are highly efficient solar cells, thin crystalline silicon solar cells (including Sliver solar cell technology) and solar concentrators.

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Mr Wes Stein is the Manager of the CSIRO National Solar Energy Centre (NSEC) and leads its Solar Thermal Team. He has extensive experience in the energy and power industry with a strong background in thermodynamic cycles, and solar thermal power in particular.

Professor Phil Jennings is Professor of Physics and Energy Studies at Murdoch University and has been involved in renewable energy research and education for more than 25 years.

Mr Peter Meurs is Managing Director of WorleyParsons' EcoNomics Unit which promotes profitable sustainability. He is working on large scale concentrated thermal and PV solar power facilities plus integrated fossil fuel solar hybrid solutions.

Dr Muriel Watt is a Project Manager with IT Power Australia. IT Power is a leading international energy consultancy which specialises in sustainable energy technologies and policy, and related economic, financial, commercial and environmental work. She is also Chair of the Australian PV Association (APVA).

Dr Gerry Wilson leads the Flexible Electronics Theme in CSIRO's Future Manufacturing Flagship. Dr Wilson established the Flexible Electronics Theme in 2006 with a particular focus on developing materials and processes for Organic Photovoltaics (OPV), Organic Light Emitting Devices (OLEDs) and Organic Field Effect Transistors (OFETs).

Prof Keith Lovegrove is the leader of the Solar Thermal Group in the Department of Engineering at the Australian National University. He also teaches undergraduate and postgraduate courses in Energy Systems and Systems Engineering within the Department of Engineering.