



Fact Sheet
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AGL Solar Project



Organisation: AGL Energy Limited (AGL)

Partners: First Solar (Australia) Pty Ltd, NSW Government, University of Queensland, University of NSW

Location: Broken Hill (NSW) and Nyngan (NSW)

Construction start date: Nyngan, January 2014 and Broken Hill, July 2014

ARENA Funding: \$166.7 million

Total Project Cost: \$450 million

Need: Knowledge gained through the construction and operation of large-scale, grid-connected solar power stations would help solar energy play a greater role in meeting Australia's electricity needs.

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Project innovation

This project aims to increase knowledge in large-scale solar energy by constructing two solar photovoltaic (PV) power stations in New South Wales, which between them will have a generation capacity of up to 155 megawatts (MW) (AC) of electricity.

AGL has engaged First Solar as the engineering, procurement and construction (EPC) contractor for the project. First Solar will build the power stations using its thin film PV technology and will maintain the facilities for an initial five year period following construction.

Two universities will conduct related academic research under the Education Investment Fund (EIF) component of the project.

The University of Queensland (UQ) will build a 3.275MW PV research plant at its Gatton campus to test tracking technologies and performance, energy storage, and operational strategies. UQ will also build a data analysis centre at its St Lucia campus to collect and analyse data from the Gatton research plant and the main AGL power stations.

The University of New South Wales (UNSW) will develop new energy modelling techniques to assist in the design and integration of solar power stations into the electricity grid.

The NSW Government has also committed \$64.9 million to the project.

Benefits

This project will help the large-scale solar industry develop in Australia, encourage economic and industry development at the two locations in regional New South Wales, provide academic research infrastructure, and develop Australian intellectual property in solar power generation.

AGL estimates over 450 construction jobs will be created at the two project locations, with more local jobs created to support the construction workforces. Approximately five permanent local jobs will also be created to support ongoing plant operations at each site.

Importantly, the AGL project will promote industry development by transferring skills and experience to the local labour markets, as well as helping to develop a supply chain that will benefit the entire solar industry. These developments will help to drive down the cost of implementing further large-scale solar projects in the future.