

## Australia's Largest Concentrated Photovoltaic (CPV) Solar Plant Opens

Solar Systems to officially open its 1.5MW facility in Mildura, Victoria

17<sup>th</sup> July 2013

### Highlights:

- **Australia's largest Concentrating Photovoltaic (CPV) Solar Power Station will be officially opened today in Mildura, Victoria**
- **Opening to be officiated by Victorian Energy and Resources Minister, The Hon. Nicholas Kotsiras MP, and other distinguished guests**
- **Opening of facility a "seminal milestone" for solar energy in Australia, demonstrating the feasibility of utility-scale solar power generation**
- **Mildura facility an example of growing global investment in solar power**

Solar Systems, a world leader in utility-scale solar power technology, and wholly owned subsidiary of Silex Systems Ltd (ASX: SLX) (OTCQX: SILXY), will officially open its 1.5MW Mildura Solar Demonstration Facility today.

The opening of the Mildura facility, Australia's largest concentrated photovoltaic (CPV) solar power plant, will be attended by Victorian Energy and Resources Minister, The Hon. Nicholas Kotsiras MP, and other distinguished guests, who will be given a tour of the new facility.

The solar CPV plant is now connected to the national grid and providing enough electricity – under a power purchase agreement signed with Diamond Energy in 2012 – to power up to 500 average-sized homes while removing 4,200 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per year<sup>1</sup>.

"The official opening of the Mildura Solar Demonstration Facility is a seminal milestone for Australian clean energy and an outstanding showcase of Australian innovation," Silex Managing Director and CEO Michael Goldsworthy commented. "It is expected to demonstrate the economic feasibility of the company's 'Dense Array' CPV dish technology for utility-scale solar power generation at a time when governments around the world are considering solutions for a zero-emissions energy future."

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<sup>1</sup> CO<sub>2</sub> emissions factor of 1.31kg/kWh for the electricity supply mix in Victoria

Dr Goldsworthy said investment in utility-scale solar power stations was growing rapidly as the technology improved. Global installations of utility-scale (10MW and over) solar facilities has now exceeded 14GW (or 14,000MW), with over 4GW of capacity installed in 2012 alone – up from less than 1GW in 2009<sup>2</sup>. This currently represents an annual market of approximately \$15 billion with strong growth set to continue for the next two decades. “We anticipate investment in CPV solar will continue to rise as its feasibility as a cost effective clean energy solution becomes entrenched,” he said.

“We are extremely grateful for the support that the Victorian and Federal Governments have given our solar projects to date, and are honoured to have Minister Kotsiras attending the official opening,” Dr Goldsworthy added.

The Mildura facility is a demonstration plant designed to establish, over extended operational periods, that Solar Systems’ ‘Dense Array’ concentrated photovoltaic (CPV) dish technology can reliably and cost effectively produce electricity – essential for validating the technology’s bankability before proceeding with larger scale plants.



Above: the completed Mildura ‘Dense Array’ CPV Demonstration Facility, June 2013

“Our long term vision is to deploy our technology commercially within the burgeoning global utility-scale solar power station market, which is forecast to continue to grow rapidly over the next two decades,” Dr Goldsworthy said.

“As a country highly dependent on coal to supply our energy needs, solar can provide clean energy security for Australia into the future, provide secure, long-term green jobs and reduce our carbon emissions”.

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<sup>2</sup> Wiki-Solar.org

Plans to expand the Mildura facility to 100MW, featuring around 2,000 dishes and providing peak power output sufficient for up to 40,000 homes, are well underway. Construction is expected to commence in late 2014, subject to successful operation of the 1.5MW facility and finalisation of financial prerequisites. Once built, the 100MW Mildura Solar Facility is expected to be the largest solar plant in Australia and one of the largest solar CPV plants in the world.

The Company continues to investigate other major project opportunities in the 10 to 50MW range in Australia and key offshore markets, including the Middle East and the USA. The construction of a 1MW demonstration facility in Nofa, Saudi Arabia, is well advanced and expected to be completed later in 2013.

Further information on the Company's activities can be found on the Silex website: [www.silex.com.au](http://www.silex.com.au) or by contacting the persons listed below.

| <b>Company</b>  | <b>Media and Investor Relations</b>  |
|---|--|
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## **About Silex**

Silex Systems Limited (ASX: SLX) (OTCQX: SILXY) is a world leader in research, development and commercialisation of leading edge technologies in key strategic markets, including nuclear power, solar power, semiconductor materials and instrumentation. Silex is a member of the S&P/ASX 300 index and operates four divisions:

**Silex** has licensed its 'SILEX' laser enrichment technology to Global Laser Enrichment, a business venture comprising GE (51%), Hitachi (25%) and Cameco (24%). Silex and GLE are commercialising the technology for potential deployment in the USA with two sites currently under consideration in North Carolina and Kentucky.

**Solar Systems** has developed ultra-high efficiency concentrating photovoltaic (CPV) technology based on its proprietary 'Dense Array' dish concentrator system, targeting deployment of utility-scale solar power stations in key global markets.

**Translucent** has developed novel semiconductor materials based on the 'rare earth oxide' family for application to the manufacturing of next generation devices in the semiconductor, power electronics and photovoltaics industries; and

**ChronoLogic** has developed the world's first high precision timing and control products based on the ultra-low cost USB-inSync™ platform, targeting applications in the electronic instrumentation markets.

For more information on Silex Systems Limited, please visit: [www.silex.com.au](http://www.silex.com.au).

**Forward Looking Statements and Business Risks:**

*Silex Systems is a research and development Company whose assets are its proprietary rights in various technologies, including, but not limited to, the SILEX technology, Solar Systems technology and business, Translucent technology and ChronoLogic technology. Several of the Company's technologies are in the development stage and have not been commercially deployed, and therefore are high-risk. Accordingly, the statements in this announcement regarding the future of the Company's technologies and commercial prospects are forward looking and actual results could be materially different from those expressed or implied by such forward looking statements as a result of various risk factors.*

*Some risk factors that could affect future results and commercial prospects include, but are not limited to: results from the SILEX uranium enrichment commercialisation program; the demand for enriched uranium; the risks associated with the development of Solar Systems technology and related marketing activities; the outcomes of the Company's interests in the development of various semiconductor, photonics, instrumentation and alternative energy technologies; the time taken to develop various technologies; the development of competing technologies; the potential for third party claims against the Company's ownership of Intellectual Property associated with its numerous technologies; the potential impact of government regulations or policies; and the outcomes of various commercialisation strategies undertaken by the Company.*