

US-Australia solar research collaboration initiative

Prime Minister Julia Gillard and US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton have announced a US-Australia solar research collaboration initiative. The initiative will support joint projects specifically designed to cut the cost of solar energy technologies. The Federal Government is committing up to \$50 million from the Renewable Energy Future Fund to support the initiative, which will see new research on advanced solar technology projects such as dual junction photovoltaic devices, hot-carrier solar cells and high temperature receivers. Funding will also be provided for exchange programs and research scholarships focused on achieving affordable solar energy solutions. The announcement builds on the joint commitment to further develop energy cooperation and innovation between the US and Australia. Australia recently welcomed a US\$500,000 grant from the US State Department to support the work of the Global Carbon Capture and Storage Institute in developing countries and in December last year, Australia pledged its support for the US led Renewable and Efficiency Deployment Initiative to help bring renewable energy technologies to developing countries.

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