

## **Geothermal Breakthrough For Electricity Generation**

The University of Newcastle has developed a world first heat regenerator which allows the production of low cost, zero emission electricity from geothermal reserves.

Associate Professor Behdad Moghtaderi says one geothermal power plant could power hundreds of houses. He says it is a cheap and cleaner alternative to coal.

“Our estimates show that in terms of wholesale prices, we can generate electricity at about five cents per kilowatt an hour, and what you get for wholesale for coal-fired power plants are four to five cents per kilowatt hour, so what we’re getting is quite comparable,” he said.

The project – a joint development between the University of Newcastle and Proactive Energy Developments Limited (PED) – received \$1.2 million in the latest round of Renewable Energy Development Initiative grants. PED will contribute another \$1.2 million.

Associate Professor Moghtaderi will work with Dr Elham Doroodchi and a team of University of Newcastle researchers and PED experts to develop the technology. The pair have conceived and lodged a patent application for the technology. The project is expected to conclude in 2008.

[Source esaa news]