

## **US\$467 million funding for geothermal and solar energy**

US President Barack Obama has announced over US\$467 million from the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act to expand and accelerate the development, deployment and use of geothermal and solar energy throughout the US. "We have a choice. We can remain the world's leading importer of oil, or we can become the world's leading exporter of clean energy," says Obama. "We can hand over the jobs of the future to our competitors, or we can confront what they have already recognised as the great opportunity of our time: the nation that leads the world in creating new sources of clean energy will be the nation that leads the 21st century global economy. That's the nation I want America to be," he says. The Recovery Act makes a US\$350 million new investment in geothermal energy technology, dwarfing previous government commitments. Recovery Act funding will support projects in four crucial areas: geothermal demonstration projects; Enhanced Geothermal Systems research and development; innovative exploration techniques; and a National Geothermal Data System, Resource Assessment and Classification System. Solar energy is a rapidly expanding industry with a double-digit annual growth rate in the US. DOE is focused on supporting the US industry's scaling-up of manufacturing, production and distribution so the technology can become cost competitive with conventional sources of energy. DOE will provide US\$117.6 million in Recovery Act funding to accelerate the widespread commercialisation of clean solar energy technologies across America.

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