

Media Release

Embargoed to Wednesday 3rd May 2006

Origin's Revolutionary SLIVER technology wins SAFSA Funding

SLIVER technology has been awarded \$2 million in grant funding from the Structural Adjustment Fund for South Australia (SAFSA).

"The growth of the global solar industry has seen tens of thousands of new manufacturing and service jobs created around the world over the last five years", said Tony Wood, General Manager Public and Government Affairs.

"Origin's investment in SLIVER technology has already generated 35 high-tech jobs in South Australia and the SAFSA grant will assist us in achieving job growth at our Regency Park based SLIVER® pilot plant through to 2012 of around 50 full time employees", Mr Wood said.

"Origin is committed to the continuing development of our Regency Park SLIVER® pilot plant and to the likely employment opportunities that are expected to flow", Mr Wood said.

"We are delighted to again see Origin's exciting SLIVER technology recognised for its potential by the Australian Government", Mr Wood said.

Governments around the world have identified the potential of solar PV as a generator of jobs and economic development as well as being a means to reduce greenhouse gas generation.

The grant supports the purchase of capital equipment that will enable limited commercial manufacturing in the future from the Regency Park R&D pilot facility.

Background:

SAFSA is a \$45 million fund created jointly by the Australian and South Australian Governments. The fund aims to assist companies which are undertaking projects that will significantly impact on the South Australian economy. The purpose of SAFSA is to support investment that will create sustainable new jobs in South Australia with a focus on the Adelaide area.

Origin Energy's revolutionary SLIVER technology was invented in conjunction with the Australian National University's Centre for Sustainable Energy Systems. A \$1 million grant from the Government's Australian Greenhouse Office contributed to the technology development and a \$5 million grant from AusIndustry's Renewable Energy Development Initiative (REDI) program.

SLIVER technology benefits include:

- Improved tolerance to partial shade = better real world performance
- low silicon use without losing any performance
- mono-crystalline, high performance silicon with more than 30 years of proven reliability
- invented and produced in Australia.



Construction of the Origin Energy Solar manufacturing plant was completed in September 2004, with first modules reaching pre-production in December 2004 with progressively larger modules being produced throughout 2005.

Origin Energy is Australia's number one grid-connect solar retailer – with a national market share of over 30%.

In 2005 SLIVER® has won a Global Eco-Tech 100 Award, Australia's leading environmental prize; a prestigious Banksia Environment Award and was short-listed for a Eureka Award and an Australian Institute of Energy – Excellence in Energy Award.

SLIVER® is a registered trade mark of Origin Energy Solar Pty Ltd, a wholly owned company of Origin Energy Limited, Australia's second largest energy company.

For more information and images, please contact:

Media

Wayne Gregory
National Manager Public Affairs
Phone: 03 9652 5886
Mobile: 0419 587 375

For SLIVER technology Enquiries

Natali Bennett
Marketing and Communications
Phone: 08 8217 5876
Mobile: 0417 879 670
natali.bennett@originenergy.com.au