

DECEMBER 2004

Origin Produces its First SLIVER modules

Staff at Origin Energy's Solar PV manufacturing plant achieved a key milestone this month – the production of our first SLIVER® Solar Photovoltaic (PV) panel.



The first SLIVER panels, built at the Regency Park plant in South Australia will be nominally 10 Watt capacity and released to the market in the first half of 2005.

“We are very happy to meet yet another milestone on our journey. The research and development that has gone into these 10W panels is essential in Origin’s push towards producing larger grid-connect modules”, said Phil Mackey, Executive Manager, Solar.

“We are using the 10W modules to prove our unique SLIVER technology works before making large-scale panels for the growing grid-connect market.”

The greater than 30% annual growth in the global Solar industry points to a growing desire to harness the sun’s energy and convert it to clean electricity to power homes, businesses and schools. Household grid connected applications are the fastest growing part of the Australian PV market.

“Origin’s Solar Retail business has increased its market share in the national grid-connected market from 23% in 2003/ 2004 to 40% in 2004/2005 which bodes well for SLIVER panels. We expect SLIVER panels will further add to our success,” Phil said.

The first panels will now enter an exhaustive testing regime designed to ensure that they comply with the rigorous international standards.

Background:

Origin Energy’s revolutionary SLIVER technology was invented in conjunction with the Australian National University’s Centre for Sustainable Energy Systems.

Construction of the Origin Energy Solar manufacturing plant was complete in September 2004, with pre-production complete in December 2004.

A \$1million grant from the Government’s Australian Greenhouse Office contributed to the project.

SLIVER® is a registered trade mark of Origin Energy Solar.