

Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2005

## Origin's Revolutionary SLIVER technology on Royal Display

SLIVER technology had its first brush with Royalty today when The King of Sweden, Carl Gustaf XVI, visited our pilot manufacturing plant in Regency Park, South Australia.

"We hosted King Carl Gustaf on a tour of the manufacturing facility to explain our revolutionary, Australian made and owned technology," said Phil Mackey, General Manager Renewable and Low Emission Technologies.

In the plant's assembly room, he handled individual SLIVER cells and a finished SLIVER panel [\[IMAGES AVAILABLE\]](#), then viewed the manufacturing process and quality testing in action.

"King Carl Gustaf was shown the outdoor demonstration of a SLIVER panel's performance when shaded – and compared to a conventional panel," said Mr Mackey. [\[IMAGES AVAILABLE\]](#)

"Our technology has a greater tolerance to partial shade than conventional crystalline silicon panels and the demonstration showed that over 90% of the SLIVER panel could be covered before it ceased to generate electricity, compared to just 20% with a competitor's panel," said Mr Mackey.

"This is a simple demonstration showing one way SLIVER panels perform better in real world conditions.

"Testing in real-world-conditions is a crucial step towards Origin commercialising panels. Our first pre-production 70W panels were produced in July 2005. These are undergoing rigorous testing before we release them for sale in 2006.

"Sales in the solar photovoltaic market worldwide are estimated at over US\$10 billion in 2005 and growing rapidly. We believe SLIVER technology has the potential to gain a significant share of this market as it continues to grow," said Mr Mackey.

The King and his wife, Queen Silvia, are in SA accompanied by a high level Swedish business delegation at the invitation of the Australian Government. This is Swedish royalty's first visit to South Australia.

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### Background:

Origin Energy's revolutionary SLIVER technology was invented in conjunction with the Australian National University's Centre for Sustainable Energy Systems. A \$1million grant from the Government's Australian Greenhouse Office contributed to the project.

Construction of the Origin Energy Solar manufacturing plant was completed in September 2004, with first modules reaching pre-production in December 2004.

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

SLIVER<sup>®</sup> 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:

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