# In the spotlight: Australian solar energy R&D outcomes and achievements in a global context







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COO, previously Head of Big Solar team and General Counsel

# In the spotlight: Australian solar energy R&D outcomes and achievements in a global context

- Review of all ARENA solar R&D to December 2017
- Over 300 projects surveyed
- Available on our Knowledge Bank





# ARENA exists to accelerate Australia's shift to affordable and reliable renewable energy.

#### **ARENA's target:**

- Ensure private sector has the technology and tools to deliver secure and reliable renewable energy at lower cost and more value.
- Provide knowledge, data and skills to decision makers in both government and the private sector to navigate the shift to renewable energy.
- Facilitate increased collaboration in the energy sector.

#### **ARENA's activities:**

- Funding research, development, demonstration, commercialisation and deployment of renewable energy technologies
- Knowledge Sharing: provision of advice to inform decision making and accelerate industry learning
- Facilitation Collaboration within the energy sector and energy users.



#### ARENA AT A GLANCE

\$1.19B INVESTED 396 PROJECTS

\$4.01B VALUE

\$2.82B INVESTMENT LEVERAGE

SOLAR PV \$634M

SOLAR THERMAL \$145M

**GRID INTEGRATION** 

HYBRID \$98M

**BIOENERGY** \$59M

STORAGE - BATTERIES/PHES \$52M

WAVE/TIDAL \$48M

GEOTHERMAL \$41M

#### 50%

Reduction in large-scale solar construction costs -\$2.50/W to \$1.25/W



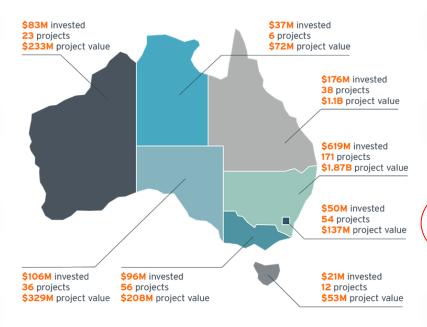
\$1: \$2.37 Average investment leverage



R&D Deploy Study Demo \$1: \$1.57 GO \$1: \$1.71 GO \$1: \$1.78 GO \$1: \$3.59 Investment leverage across innovation chain

797MW Total capacity created through investment







25%

Contribution to the Government's Mission Innovation targets



A-Lab

14 collaborative events attended by a total of

159 organisations

15 Ideas funded



270 Researchers supported 90 PHD students supported

Renewable Energy efficiency improvements and cost reduction research



In 2016/17 renewable energy jobs grew by

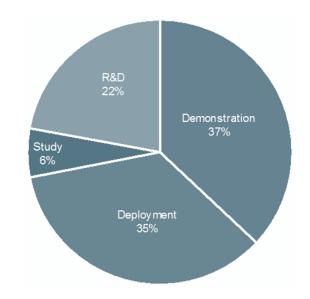
1/3 to 14,820



### Solar R&D has always been important in ARENA

 About 22% of funding focuses exclusively on R&D, with some other projects also containing R&D components

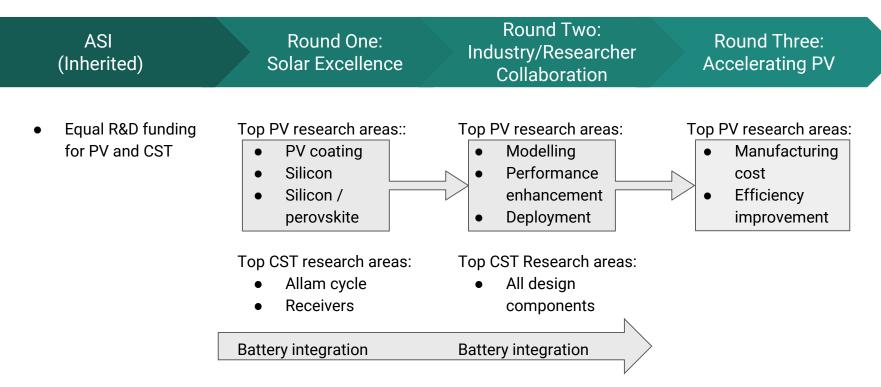
 \$291m was allocated across 314 projects with a solar R&D component.



PV	сѕт	Enabling	Total
209	67	38	314
(\$165.87m)	(\$96.03m)	(\$29.1m)	



### Mapping our focus in solar R&D





### Allocation of \$165m Funding by PV Type (2009-2017)

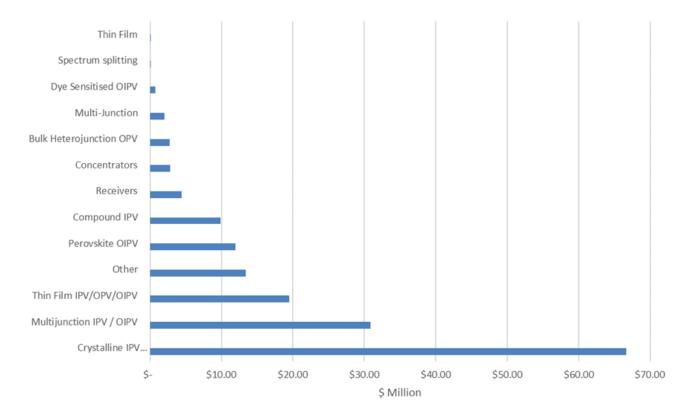
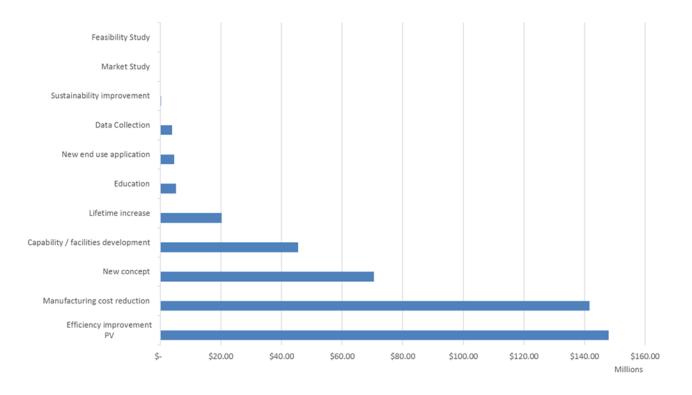
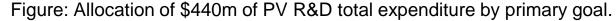




Figure: Allocation of PV Funding (\$165m) by PV type

# In PV, we have prioritised work on efficiency improvement and cost reduction (2009 - 2017)



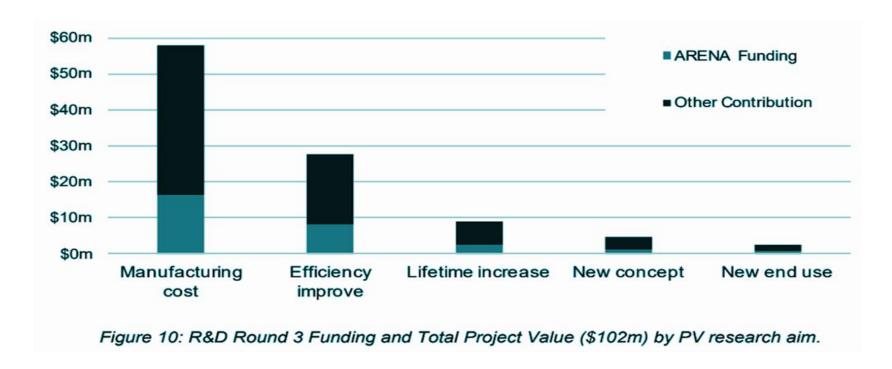




#### **Key Outcomes Enabled** PV **CST** Low cost, high **New designs System** performance Improved receiver performance data materials efficiency and forecasts Low cost heliostat Novel / better components **New integration** encapsulation and enabling **New concepts** technologies **Establishment of** Storage materials research facilities Power cycles Commercialization



#### ARENA incentivises collaboration across Government with researchers



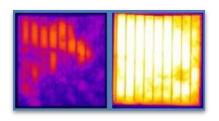


# ARENA's role in knowledge sharing is a shared value with universities.

Patents filed	Licences entered into	Presentations	Journal and other publications	PhDs	Postdocs
148	21	1235	1693	220	341



## Some ARENA projects you would have heard of:



UNSW Hydrogenation



Vast Solar CST plant



Fulcrum3D sky-cam



### **Summary of key outcomes**

- Maintained Australia's lead in solar research
- Enhanced educational credentials and outcomes
  - Both serve to create or reinforce strong links with international industry
- Established a range of world-class, industry-scale research facilities
  - These will provide the foundations for future research- industry collaborations
- Tackling key background issues of energy market design, technology integration, data collection and management, energy forecasting and storage



### ARENA's next targets for solar R&D funding

#### Commercialisation of R&D

- In collaboration with CSIRO's ON Prime 6 program (opening 4th Feb)
- 'Kick-start' funding to support research based innovations

#### End of life for solar PV systems

- Regeneration, reduced disposal costs or commercial opportunities
- Better up-front design
- o Mid-2019

#### Solar PV R&D funding round

To be scoped in consultation with the research sector







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