



ANU media release

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PLANS FOR HUGE SOLAR POWER SYSTEM UNVEILED

One of the world's largest concentrating solar systems for both electricity and hot water will be built on the new Bruce Hall student residence at the Australian National University in 2003, the Director of the ANU Centre for Sustainable Energy Systems Professor Andrew Blakers announced today.

The Centre has developed a solar system suitable for the generation of both electricity and hot water in urban regions. The system is called the Combined Heat and Power Solar (CHAPS) system.

“The construction of this new system on the roof of Bruce Hall is a great opportunity to demonstrate the potential of this technology,” Professor Blakers said.

“There is obviously significant commercial potential in producing a single unit which can produce both electricity and hot water for a home or building in an environmentally responsible way.

“Since the system combines the generation of solar electricity and solar hot water in the one unit it achieves record solar efficiencies above 60%.

“This system has real potential to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in many cities. The sunny Australian climate makes the system particularly attractive here.”

The 300m² demonstration CHAPS system will provide both solar electricity and solar hot water to the students, with up to 62% of total energy usage supplied by the solar system.

The dual energy output from CHAPS systems delivers a greater potential to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in comparison with either conventional photovoltaic or solar hot water systems, as well as two income streams.

Rheem Australia (together with its subsidiary Solahart) is a partner in the project and will make a decision on commercialising the CHAPS technology in 2003.

The project is being funded by an Australian Greenhouse Office grant of \$1,000,000.

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