

2010 USA Solar Mission

Following on from the buzz around Victoria, and with the name Mildura being synonymous with solar development after Premier Brumby's announcement last week, Mildura Development Corporation is about to embark on a second solar mission to the United States of America.

This year's delegation will comprise of a number of business representatives, eager to learn more about the large-scale solar industry and how that industry can add to the diversity of the local economy.

The delegates of the 2010 USA Solar Mission are:

- Mr Dane Huxley, Chairman – Mildura Development Corporation
- Mrs Anne Mansell, Chief Executive Officer – Mildura Development Corporation
- Cr Glenn Milne, Mayor – Mildura Rural City Council
- Ms Win Scott, Chief Executive Officer – Sunraysia Institute of TAFE
- Mr Walter MacKenzie, Manager - LEDA Engineering
- Mrs Renee Carruthers, Partner - Mildura Solar
- Mrs Leonie Burrows, Principal – Leonie Burrows & Associates Consultants
- Mr Mark Stedwell, Engineering Consultant - Intelligent Partners
- Mr Danny Grzan, Regional Manager - North West Victoria, GHD

“As well as attending Solar Power International in Los Angeles for a second year, the delegation will be visiting a number of solar power stations and communities that have been involved in both small and large scale solar developments. These visits will give the delegation a very thorough understanding of the overall solar industry, its high growth rates, and future potential.” Mrs Mansell said.

GHD's Danny Grzan is enthusiastic about exploring the possibilities: “GHD is working on a number of renewable energy projects across Australia. I'm really interested in the US government's policies and mechanisms that deal with renewable energy and the engineering and environmental intricacies of delivering such projects.”

The delegation's itinerary includes visiting with First Solar in Phoenix, the technology provider for TruEnergy's Mallee Solar Park ¹.

“First Solar is one of the world's leading solar manufacturers and has grown significantly in the space of only 9 years. We will be meeting with a number of First Solar representatives to discuss the Mallee Solar Park and local industry engagement, as well as future directions for other opportunities such as commercial rooftop solar.” Anne Mansell said.

Solar Power International is known as the largest solar conference in the world and is expecting approximately 25,000 participants this year ².

“California is a driving force in renewable energy, particularly solar, and Solar Power International attracts key solar companies from around the world”, Anne Mansell said.

“It explores all types of solar investments, from large scale to retail; from commercial to community driven. This conference will provide our delegation some tremendous opportunities for marketing our region and our solar opportunities to the world, as well as gaining further valuable information on where the solar sector is heading to next”.

The Federal Government's Trade Commission, AusTrade, will be exhibiting at Solar Power International this year where they will be displaying Mildura Development Corporation's marketing materials and promoting the Mildura region.

Mildura Development Corporation are working in conjunction with relevant agencies – one being the Industry Capability Network (ICN) to ensure that large scale projects such as solar power generation utilise local suppliers and the local labour force.

"I would encourage local businesses that are keen to engage in this or other major projects to register with the Industry Capability Network's Regional Industry Link. This can be done via the ICN website www.icnvc.org.au or by contacting the ICN regional representative, Noel Morton, on 5441 8611." Anne Mansell said.

"This delegation will learn and gain from the site visits and from the conference. The visit last year was instrumental in attracting real interest in the Mildura region, and culminated in the announcement last week by the Premier of a \$100 million commitment to the Mallee Solar Park. I believe we still have a range of opportunities to explore in terms of The Green Economy here in Mildura.' said Mildura Development Corporation's Chairman, Dane Huxley.

The delegation will depart Melbourne for the USA on Saturday morning.

END OF MEDIA RELEASE

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¹ TruEnergy Mallee Solar Park: www.truenergy.com.au/malleesolarpark
Last week Premier John Brumby committed \$100million to this project (contingent on receipt of federal government Solar Flagships funding)
Refer to MDC Media Release:
http://milduraregion.com.au/news/documents/2010September21MDCwelcomesPremierannouncementoflargescale_solarproject.pdf

² Solar Power International 2010 Conference: www.solarpowerinternational.com