
Greatcell Australia – A Solar Revolution in Wagga Wagga

On Friday 5th March, just over 6 months since its formation, Greatcell Australia laid its foundation in Wagga Wagga with the opening of its first pilot plant for manufacture of the revolutionary Perovskite Solar Cells.

Perovskite solar cells, known in the solar industry as PSC, have been striking home runs for high efficiency in laboratories around the world. PSC has demonstrated that its ultra-thin low weight combined with the forecast high efficiency in production devices rank it at the top for high specific power. While the majority of solar cells now used are silicon wafers laminated between sheets of glass, there are many applications where the high weight and rigidity of those silicon panels are a disadvantage.

Greatcell, through this manufacturing plant in Wagga, is addressing the many high growth markets that demand high specific power and product flexibility. The Greatcell technology is a market disruptor, performing well in low light, shade and even indoors, where the company recently reported 20% efficiency for modules, the best industrial result yet achieved. The markets that demand these agile solutions are those creating 40% year on year growth such as EV's which can be coated with a PSC photovoltaic skin. Other high demand applications include replacement of high cost cells on drones (known as UAV), Internet of Things (IoT), large area sheds and warehouses, mobile phones, energy harvesting and digital agriculture. Greatcell is ideally placed in Wagga and has formed an association with the Charles Sturt University and AgriPark aiming to be a key player in energy harvesting for agriculture.

The Managing Director of Greatcell Australia is Paul Moonie who has 20 years experience in 3rd generation photovoltaic technologies both in Australia and internationally, particularly in Switzerland, where he worked with the founding technological team for 3rd Gen solar. Paul gives credit to his young staff, to the commitment of the founding investors to take the step to the inland city of Wagga where the practical assistance by the Riverina BEC and the collaboration between the three levels of government has catalysed the early example of this new solar facility. Dr Joe McGirr, State Member for Wagga Wagga had the proud role of cutting the ribbon and formally welcoming Greatcell to the Riverina.

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