



Geothermal Industry Development Framework (GIDF) – A Great Show of Confidence

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Australian governments have placed a great deal of confidence in the Australian geothermal energy industry and acknowledged the important role it will play in Australia's future energy supply through the collaborative development of the GIDF and the Geothermal Technology Road Map according to the national geothermal industry body, the Australian Geothermal Energy Association (AGEA).

The GIDF which includes the Technology Road Map initiated by COAG has been developed in close collaboration between Australian governments, the industry and the geothermal research community over the past 18 months and includes a range of strategies that will accelerate the industry's development over the next decade.

AGEA's Chairman, Gerry Grove White, Managing Director of Geodynamics, applauded the collaboration at the official launch of the GIDF in Canberra today by Resources, Energy and Tourism Minister, The Hon Martin Ferguson MP.

"The interactive process has enabled the Commonwealth and the states to be actively engaged in all aspects of the progress of the Australian industry, its capabilities and challenges and in its active engagement with the global geothermal community", Mr Grove White said.

The industry will continue to work closely with government and the Australian geothermal research community in the implementation of the strategies outlined in the GIDF to build on our existing capabilities and to continue dealing with the challenges to develop a low cost, reliable and large scale solution to the climate change and energy supply challenges.

Speaking on behalf of the Australian industry at the launch today, Mr Grove White talked about the ways in which geothermal energy can provide a range of technology solutions to overcome these challenges including:

- The production of electricity from the development of Enhanced Geothermal Systems or EGS technology where the underground reservoir (heat exchanger) is created several kilometres below the earth's surface by artificial stimulation of fracturing - Australia is a world leader in this technology;
- The production of electricity from the development of more traditional hydrothermal projects in line with the 10,000MW of existing geothermal

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power stations around the world where hot underground aquifers in volcanic regions are used to produce heat to drive turbines on the surface (suitable areas exist in southern South Australian and western Victoria for this approach); and

- The direct use of geothermal heat in industrial, commercial and energy efficiency applications.

“The strategies outlined in the GIDF will assist in accelerating the industry’s progress by building on existing activities to deal with the technical barriers in a more efficient and coordinated way and by improving communication about geothermal energy to government investors and to the public and by building an appropriately skilled workforce” Mr Grove White said.

“The Australian geothermal energy community thanks the Commonwealth Government and the state governments that have contributed to the development of the GIDF document and for the ongoing support that they provide to the industry through a range of co-ordination activities, funding support programs, research grants and user friendly approval processes.

“It is easy at times to focus on barriers. This process however, in line with the can do spirit of the Australian industry and the geothermal research community, will provide an important contribution to overcoming the national challenge of producing increasing levels of energy and simultaneously reducing emissions. It will also underpin the development of a new export focused industry for Australia where we have already demonstrated and will continue to demonstrate our global leadership position” Mr Grove White said today.

For further information contact AGEA CEO Susan Jeanes on 0419833556.