

## Media Release

13 November 2007

**Updated October 2008: Technology to be marketed under “Ecoult” brand.**

### **Smarter energy storage for solar and wind power**

Cleantech Ventures has made a significant investment in technology start-up Smart Storage Pty Ltd to develop and commercialise an innovative hybrid battery suitable for off-grid electricity storage from renewable sources such as solar and wind.

Cost effective high performance energy storage is the missing link for renewable energy power systems. Current battery storage solutions are considered expensive as a result of high initial cost and/or short battery life. Stationary batteries for renewable energy systems undergo frequent deep discharging and regularly need to meet high power demands.

The Smart Storage technology is based on the CSIRO developed ‘ultrabattery’ which has been successfully trialled in hybrid vehicle applications. CSIRO is a co-investor in the company.

Director of CSIRO Energy Transformed Flagship, Dr John Wright said the Smart Storage technology aims to deliver a low cost, high performance and high power stationary energy storage solution.

Extensive technology development is now underway to produce a low cost and easily manufactured deep-cycle stationary battery that meets demanding operating conditions.

The Smart Storage technology is a hybrid battery which combines an asymmetric ‘supercapacitor’ electrode and a lead-acid battery in a one-unit cell. Advanced materials used for the electrodes and current management, absorb and release charge rapidly and at efficiencies well above conventional battery types.

“Most importantly, the technology development path is directed towards manufacturing in existing lead-acid battery plants at a marginal cost difference” said Jan Dekker, a Principal at Cleantech Ventures. “Too often new technologies simply aren’t price competitive and that significantly retards market uptake.”

It is expected that the discharge and charge power of the Smart Storage battery will be 50% higher and its cycle-life at least three times longer than that of the conventional lead-acid counterpart.

“We consider investments in energy storage technologies to have excellent potential for strong returns given the growing market demand and the lack of viable solutions,” said Andrew Pickering, a Principal at Cleantech Ventures. “We now have investments in two energy storage technology companies, V-Fuel which targets grid-scale renewable energy storage applications and now Smart Storage for smaller off-grid renewable energy systems”.

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