LASER SURFACING
Hardwear

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# Major Contract and New Investment for Hardwear

Hardwear Pty. Ltd. has pleasure in announcing that it has recently signed a major contract with energy company TRUenergy to assist with the maintenance of the Torrens Island Power Station in South Australia.

Hardwear owns the award-winning, 'in situ laser surfacing' technology which was developed by the Cooperative Research Centre for Welded Structures, in collaboration with Swinburne University of Technology, CSIRO, Connell Wagner, WTIA, ANSTO and eleven Australian power stations (including TRUenergy). It is this unique, robotic laser technology that Hardwear will utilize to refurbish the low pressure, turbine blades in Torrens Island's B4 turbine later this year.

Steam turbine blades suffer wear and erosion during service. The conventional strategy is to replace the worn blades with new, expensive and imported blades. This is costly and can also extend turbine downtime, valued at up to $250,000 per day. The new technology permits the on site, in situ repair of existing blades at the power station by using a unique combination of laser, laser torch and robotic technology.

The technology is creating significant, international interest from individual power utilities, turbine manufacturers, global maintenance providers in the power industry and from companies operating in other industry sectors who recognize both the value and the wider applicability of the technology. The Centre for Energy and Greenhouse Technologies has provided further funding to commercialise the technology following its initial investment in Hardwear early in 2006.

The technology has also been chosen as a Finalist in this year's Australian INNOVIC innovation awards.

**For further information, please contact:**

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