Media Release

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National renewable energy map more valuable than ever

An online map that helps renewable energy developers find the best locations for new Australian projects has received major upgrades.

The Australian Renewable Energy Mapping Infrastructure (AREMI), developed by CSIRO's Data61 with funding support from the Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA), provides free and open access to a wide array of Australian renewable energy data and is a repository for ARENA-funded knowledge.

ARENA CEO Ivor Frischknecht said AREMI was a priceless tool for finding out where renewable energy can add the most value in the National Electricity Market.

"AREMI helps project developers and researchers find the best opportunities for renewable energy in Australia and is speeding up the transition to a low carbon energy system," Mr Frischknecht said.

"Effectively mapping and sharing renewable energy information is critical to building the energy systems of the future. This is the first time such an extensive collection of powerful renewable energy information has been available in the one place."

Data61 will unveil an enhanced user interface for the AREMI platform today at the Clean Energy Summit in Melbourne.

"Data61 has collected feedback from a range of industry users to inform enhancements that make AREMI faster to navigate and make it easier to compare different datasets," Mr Frischknecht said.

"These latest improvements make the platform easier to use and more effective at visualising complex data to assist energy market developments."

New network opportunity maps, developed with ARENA support and hosted on AREMI, were also announced by the UTS Institute for Sustainable Futures at the summit.

"The expanded network opportunity maps show where energy demand is expected to outstrip supply. These are often locations where renewables offer an alternative to extra poles and wires and can reduce power prices whilst increasing network stability.

"In addition to the network maps, bioenergy project developers can use AREMI to find untapped biomass resources, thanks to an ARENA-supported project with the Rural Industries Research & Development Corporation (RIRDC).

"The maps also include ocean data from the ARENA-supported CSIRO wave atlas, which is a boon to our emerging wave power sector.

"This collaboration, which includes project partners Geoscience Australia and the Clean Energy Council, is a live example of different ARENA-supported projects working together effectively. I look forward to seeing the AREMI platform continue to improve and inform Australia's energy industry."

AREMI be accessed online at www.nationalmap.gov.au/renewables.

About ARENA

ARENA was established by the Australian Government to make renewable energy technologies more affordable and increase the supply of renewable energy in Australia. Through the provision of funding coupled with deep commercial and technical expertise, ARENA provides the support needed to accelerate the development of promising new solutions towards commercialisation. ARENA invests in renewable energy projects across the innovation chain and is committed to sharing knowledge and lessons learned from its portfolio of projects and information about renewable energy. ARENA always looks for at least matched funding from the projects it supports and to date has committed $1.1 billion in funding to more than 250 projects. For more information, visit www.arena.gov.au.

About CSIRO's Data61

CSIRO's Data61 is Australia's leading digital research powerhouse, offering the research capabilities, IP and collaboration programs to unleash the country's digital and data-driven potential, with a global context. By driving collaboration across industry, academia, government and the startup space, Data61 is able to help existing industries transform, and act as a catalyst in the creation of new technology-based industries. Data61 provides accelerated commercialisation paths for data-centric R&D for economic and societal benefit for Australia with global context.

Data61 was formed through the merger of CSIRO Digital Productivity Group and National ICT Australia. For more information, visit www.data61.csiro.au.

About University of Technology Sydney: Institute for Sustainable Futures

The Institute for Sustainable Futures (ISF) is an interdisciplinary research and consulting organisation at the University of Technology Sydney. ISF has been conducting project-based research with governments, organisations, businesses and communities across Australia and internationally since 1997. Reflecting the transdisciplinary nature of sustainability knowledge and practice, we do not rely solely on technological solutions to environmental or social problems. We apply our unique mix of skills, experience and knowledge to assist in political, socio-cultural, organisational and individual change towards sustainable futures. For more information, visit www.isf.uts.edu.au.

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