



20 SEPTEMBER 2017 **Roadmapping the future of Australia's electricity network**

Energy Networks Australia and the Australian Renewable Energy Agency have joined forces in Melbourne today to generate ideas that will help determine how we operate the electricity networks of the future.

With the continued rise of solar photovoltaic (PV) and the growth in batteries, this ideate session will look at 'grid orchestration' for the networks of tomorrow.

Energy Networks Australia Interim CEO, Andrew Dillon, said the transition to a system with far more distributed generation and storage provides many opportunities for energy customers but also represents challenges that we need to act on now.

"The CSIRO and Energy Networks Australia *Electricity Transformation Network Roadmap* demonstrates how the successful integration of these new network services could see \$16 billion in network infrastructure investment avoided by 2050," Mr Dillon said.

"Networks could buy grid support from customers with annual payments worth \$1.1 billion within 10 years.

"However, electricity distribution systems need to evolve in order to manage the technical challenges created by two-way energy flows.

"Today's workshop brings together a range of experts to explore innovative ways to ensure the grid remains reliable and secure into the future."

The Australian Energy Market Operator forecasts that by as early as 2026, rooftop solar capacity in South Australia will be enough to supply 100 percent of the state's demand during minimum demand periods.

ARENA's innovative workshop series A-Lab brings together industry participants from across the energy sector to troubleshoot and engineer ways to adapt the grid, reduce network costs and better integrate new technologies.

Participants at today's A-Lab workshop are exploring the future design requirements of electricity distribution systems. They will also look at ways to encourage the alignment of industry projects to accelerate the network transformation.

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ABOUT A-LAB

A-Lab is ARENA's innovation lab. It brings together a network of people with a range of expertise to imagine, create and show what a high renewable energy future could look like. The program is a central plank in ARENA's work accelerating Australia's shift to a more reliable and sustainable renewable energy future. A-Lab is designed to address key challenges for the energy sector by getting the right people and companies to work together, understand perspectives, needs and to collaborate on solutions. These solutions are incubated, tested, refined and pitched to collaborators and funders.

For more information go to www.arena.gov.au.

ABOUT THE ELECTRICITY NETWORK TRANSFORMATION ROADMAP

Australia's national science agency CSIRO and the peak national body representing gas distribution and electricity transmission and distribution businesses in Australia, Energy Networks Australia, partnered to develop the Electricity Network Transformation Roadmap (the Roadmap).

Energy Networks Australia has now developed an action plan to achieve the Roadmap's 45 milestones. Networks are currently working on project plans for 11 flagship programs with work already started on the highest priority projects.

The final Roadmap report is the product of more than two years of collaborative work carried out by Energy Networks Australia and CSIRO. More than 200 different industry representatives contributed at over 14 workshops and webinars held as part of the public consultation process. Information on the Roadmap has been viewed more than 30,000 times during the development process.

For more information go to www.energynetworks.com.au/roadmap

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. ARENA invests in renewable energy projects, supports research and development activities, boosts job creation and industry development, and increases knowledge about renewable energy. ARENA has a portfolio of more than 320 supported projects and is actively seeking new projects to fund in 2017. For more information, visit www.arena.gov.au.

ABOUT ENERGY NETWORKS AUSTRALIA

Energy Networks Australia represents Australia's electricity transmission and distribution networks and gas distribution networks. Energy Networks Australia members provide energy to virtually every household and business in Australia. For further information, visit www.energynetworks.com.au.