



Stuart Wenham takes international prize

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University of NSW Scientia Professor Stuart Wenham FTSE has been awarded the prestigious Institution of Engineering and Technology's (IET) A F Harvey Engineering Research Prize of £300,000.

The award recognises the discovery by Professor Wenham and his team of a mechanism to control the charge state of hydrogen atoms to correct deficiencies in silicon – the most costly part of a solar cell.

"Our patented advanced hydrogenation technology will allow lower-quality silicon to outperform solar cells made from better quality materials, producing higher efficiencies at significantly lower cost," said Professor Wenham, from the School of Photovoltaics and Renewable Energy Engineering.

"It is a great honour to receive the A F Harvey Engineering Prize and the international recognition that it brings to this important innovation. The prize money will go a long way to helping us take the research to the next stage.

"Our UNSW team is now working with the world's biggest solar manufacturers through collaborative agreements with NewSouth Innovations (UNSW's commercial arm) to commercialise this low-cost technology," said Professor Wenham, who acknowledged the Australian Renewable Energy Agency's funding support for the project, which is expected to be completed in 2016.

Professor Wenham will deliver a special IET lecture, 'Trends in Photovoltaic Technology and Applications', in London on 21 May to commemorate his award. He is the third

recipient of the A F Harvey Engineering Research Prize.

Professor Wenham is Scientia Professor of Electrical Engineering and Director of the ARC Photovoltaics Centre of Excellence at the UNSW, and CTO of Suntech-Power Co, one of the world's largest PV manufacturers. Formerly, Professor Wenham was Head of the School of Photovoltaic Engineering, Director of the Key Centre for Photovoltaic Engineering and Associate Director of the Photovoltaics Special Research Centre (1990–98), with responsibility for the device research strand.

He and Professor Martin Green AM FTSE, with graduate student Dr Zhengrong Shi FTSE, were involved in the formation of Pacific Solar Pty Ltd in 1995 as a cooperative venture between the university and Pacific Power, the state's electric utility company. The goal was to commercialise a cost-effective technology for conversion of sunlight into electricity using the photovoltaic (PV) effect.

Professor Wenham is one of Australia's most successful inventors of solar cell technology and has been involved in the successful commercialisation of solar technologies worldwide.

Professor Wenham obtained a Bachelor of Science (Physics Major) 1976–78, a Bachelor of Engineering (Electrical) 1976–1980 and a Doctor of Philosophy (Electrical Engineering and Computer Science) 1981–86, all from UNSW.

Professor Wenham's many awards and distinctions include:

- Australia Prize for Energy Science and Technology 1999 (jointly with Martin Green);

- named one of Australia's Top 100 Engineers in 2011 and 2012 by Engineers Australia;
- IEEE International Electron Devices Society's J J Ebers Award 2011;
- NSW Science and Engineering Award for Climate Change and the Environment 2011;
- Australian Collaborative Innovation Award, jointly with Professor Green 2012; and
- inducted into the Australian Solar Hall of Fame 2012.

KEN MATTHEWS TO CHAIR ABCA

Mr Ken Matthews AO FTSE is the new Chairman of the Agricultural Biotechnology Council of Australia (ABCA).

A former Secretary of two Australian Government departments (Agriculture and Transport), Mr Matthews has had a lengthy and distinguished career at the top of Australian public administration.

Mr Matthews brings to the role of Chairman of ABCA a wealth of experience in industry, technology and agricultural policy as well as policy on matters that affect regional Australia. His time at the helm of the Department of Agriculture also saw the development of the regulatory framework for agricultural biotechnology.

Mr Matthews joins a strong team of biotechnology and industry leaders on the Board and supported by ABCA's Patrons, The Hon John Anderson AO, former Deputy Prime Minister and Leader of the National Party of Australia and a Director of the Crawford Fund, and Professor Adrienne Clarke AC FAA FTSE, Chancellor of La Trobe University.

ABCA is the national coordinating organisation for the Australian agricultural biotechnology sector and was established to pursue recognition of the current and potential benefits of agricultural biotechnology. ABCA is a whole-of-sector initiative, with four founding members – AusBiotech, CropLife Australia, the Grains Research and Development Corporation and the National Farmers' Federation.

Ken Matthews

