**ASTRI media release**

# Launch of FPR Energy another breakthrough for concentrated solar thermal in Australia - ASTRI

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Industrial decarbonisation took another step forward today with the launch of FPR Energy, a new venture from CSIRO, which aims to commercialise next generation concentrated solar thermal (CST) technology, developed with the support of the Australian Solar Thermal Research Institute (ASTRI).

The CST technology was developed by CSIRO, through its participation in the ASTRI Program, which is supported by the [Australian Renewable Energy Agency](https://arena.gov.au/) (ARENA). The technology uses concentrated sunlight to heat up a curtain of abundant and low-cost ceramic particles. These particles and then stored at high temperatures, enabling long-duration energy storage to support industrial processes, green fuel production and reliable, dispatchable power.

CST is increasingly recognised as an ideal solution for reducing industrial emissions and offering emissions-free heat and electricity to power industrial processes such as manufacturing. The temperature breakthroughs achieved with falling particle CST technology – up to 1200 degrees Celsius – offer those industries that require very high-temperature heat, such as minerals refining, steel, cement and chemical production, a pathway to decarbonisation, according to Dominic Zaal, Director of ASTRI.

He said, “we welcome the launch of FPR Energy, which is an important milestone for Australia’s growing CST industry. One of the biggest decarbonisation challenges we face is high temperature industrial processes, which currently rely on fossil fuels. Through ASTRI, CSIRO was able to conduct a successful particle receiver research program. Through FPR Energy, this research will now be commercialised to provide industrial customers with a technology pathway to decarbonise high temperature process heat applications.

“With our abundant solar resources, Australia is uniquely well-placed to quickly commercialise the technology and give our heavy industries access to emissions-free, high-temperature heat and electricity. We are looking forward to continuing to work with FPR Energy as it progresses its demonstration plant.”

Today’s announcement comes as manufacturers increasingly consider CST as part of their decarbonisation strategy. Mars, supported by ASTRI, recently announced it will use a lower temperature CST technology solution that will see its Wodonga pet food manufacturing facility become the first large-scale steam-based manufacturing site in Australia to decarbonise its process heat within a two-year period.

FPR Energy was launched in collaboration with global advisory and funds management firm [RFC Ambrian](https://www.rfcambrian.com/) and utilities leader [Osaka Gas](https://www.osakagasaustralia.com.au/), raising the largest seed funding for a CSIRO co-founded venture to date.