

ARENA Advisory Panel Members for Ultra Low-Cost Solar PV R&D

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Annalisa Bruno

Annalisa Bruno is an Associate Professor at Nanyang Technological University, Singapore, and Cluster Director at the Energy Research Institute @ NTU (ERI@N). Her research focuses on the development of advanced semiconductors and thin-film materials for optoelectronic and sustainable energy technologies. She leads multidisciplinary R&D programs that integrate scalable fabrication, nanoscale characterization, and device engineering to advance high-performance energy and photonic systems. With extensive international experience across Europe and Asia, she actively promotes global collaboration, knowledge exchange, and innovation in materials science, applied physics, and renewable energy research.

Ashley Brison

Biography to come

Dr Bruce Godfrey, FTSE: Wyld Group

Dr Godfrey's career has been built in business, innovation investment and technology development fields. He has focused on the advancement and commercialisation of technologies (particularly new energy technologies – renewable, enabling and low emission fossil), investment readiness of products and companies, and innovation policy and programs.

In addition to his full-time management, technical and consulting roles since 1980, Bruce has been a member of assessment committees for numerous Commonwealth and Victorian government R&D and innovation and deployment support programs across a wide range of energy technologies including solar, wind, geothermal, marine, biofuels, fuel cells, hydrogen, battery storage, enabling and distributed energy resources integration and brown coal utilisation. He understands well the opportunities and challenges for developers and suppliers of new and renewable energy technologies, products and services that are used in or could penetrate energy supply chains in Australia and overseas.

Bruce is a Fellow of the Academy of Technology and Engineering (ATSE). He has Chaired Expert Working Groups for the Australian Council of Learned Academies (ACOLA) on Delivering Sustainable Urban Mobility (2015) and on Energy Storage (2017).

Damion Milliken

Damion has over a decade of experience in new solar energy research and development, particularly industrialisation and commercialisation of new technologies. He managed numerous solar technology development projects in Australia and internationally bridging industry and academia. With a Doctorate in Materials Engineering, he is also a Fellow of Engineers Australia.

Dr David Jordan

David Jordan has honours degrees in Science (UNE) and Engineering (UWA) and has worked in the solar photovoltaics industry for over 40 years, mainly at the University of NSW and BP Solar, including senior management roles in Australia and overseas in the USA, UK, India, Sri Lanka and Spain. David's roles have included manufacturing, IP management, research and technology transfer to industry. David has served on several Boards, was founding MD of ASX listed tech start-up Bluglass, and is a contracting consultant with ITP Renewables.

Denis De Ceuster

Denis De Ceuster is the owner of DDC Solar LLC, providing consulting to the PV industry since 2017. In 2008, he co-founded TetraSun, a start-up that developed new high efficiency solar cells and modules. After the TetraSun acquisition by FirstSolar in 2013, he led the team that started a 100MW production line based in Malaysia. Previously, Denis spent 12 years at SunPower, where he was the Director of Cell R&D, and produced the first commercially available module with full-size efficiency of more than 20%.

Denis holds a Master in Electrical Engineering from the Université Catholique de Louvain, Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium.

Jackie Barber

Jackie Barber has a wealth of experience having operated in energy markets for over 25 years both in the UK and Australia. She has a background in energy trading and operated at Executive General Management level at Tarong Energy Corporation and then Stanwell Corporation when the companies merged in 2011.

More recently, Jackie joined forces with fellow enthusiasts to form a new company called Energy Market Matters Australia (emma) with a focus on supporting businesses navigate the transition to a more energy efficient and sustainable future. Data wrangling, analysis, visualisation and simple communication of insights is where the journey often begins with customers. This leads to smarter procurement and investment in energy efficiency and/or new infrastructure and technology to lower the cost of energy and improve environmental outcomes.

John Lasich

John has 40 years of experience in the 'traditional' and 'renewable' energy sectors including 10 years in the petrochemical, manufacturing and power industries before entering the solar industry.

He has held senior technical positions for some 35 years creating new solar technology and winning several Engineering Excellence awards. His experience also includes automation, design, construction, and operation of significant energy projects in Australia and internationally. John holds a PhD degree in solar energy. As a pioneer in the technology, he has been awarded many patents and been an invited speaker at international conferences, publishing several 'World Firsts' including the world record solar-electricity conversion efficiency in collaboration with UNSW.

John is a member of the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) standards committee.

He received the Distinguished Alumnus award from Victoria University for his contribution to the solar industry and accepted the Governors' 'Export Innovation' award for a break-through approach to manufacturing solar products. John founded RayGen in 2010 to develop and commercialise his vision for high efficiency, low-cost dispatchable solar power products for utility scale applications.

He holds the positions of Executive Director and Chief Research Officer at RayGen.

Kim Lawrence

Kim is a non-executive director and advisor in renewable energy, sustainability and sailing sector. She has wide ranging commercial and legal experience encompassing the energy, mining, commodity markets, banking and finance sectors both within private sector and Government enterprises. She is a strategic thinker and innovator who has led investment strategy and business development to build new businesses across multiple geographies and new markets.

Kim has qualifications in law, natural resource economics and finance and has previously held senior executive roles at the Clean Energy Finance Corporation, Low Carbon Australia and Macquarie Bank both in Australia and the USA.

Dr Serena LIN Fen

Dr. Serena LIN Fen currently serves as the Deputy Director of the Solar Energy Systems Cluster and Head of the Solar System Technology Group in the Solar Energy Research Institute of Singapore (SERIS) at the National University of Singapore (NUS). Her current work focuses on solar system technologies for urban and tropical applications as well as different types of integrated PV, including floating PV, agrivoltaics and urban PV. Before this, she was the project manager of SERIS' thin film on silicon tandem flagship project. She has been the Lead PI and Project Manager for various public and industrial projects on applied PV research.

Lyndon Frearson

Lyndon is a leader in the field of remote and regional infrastructure development and deployment, policy and financing.

A chartered electrical engineer, Lyndon's experience includes seven years in heavy industry and automotive manufacturing and over fifteen in the energy sector, with a focus on renewables.

Lyndon has led advisory, engineering design and project delivery activities for clients including government agencies, regulatory bodies, utilities, regional development agencies, community organisations and commercial and private investment firms across Australia, South-Asia, the Pacific and in Africa. He has also provided critical input and leadership into some of the largest public and privately financed renewable energy projects and programs in Australia; provides technical and program development assistance to a range of public and private entities and has established knowledge partnerships with CSIRO, Google, NREL, the IEA, the UNDP, AEMO and others.

As Ekistica's Managing Director and Principal Consultant, Lyndon has overseen its development as regional and remote Australia's leading advisory and technical consultancy firm. In this role, he has been one of Australia's thought-leaders in the energy sector.

Professor Matthew Davies

Professor Matthew Davies is UNESCO Chair in Sustainable Energy Technologies and leads the Applied Photochemistry Group at Swansea University. He directs major international programmes including TEA@SUNRISE and REACH-PSM, advancing next-generation solar technologies, circular manufacturing, and sustainable energy access through partnerships spanning Africa, Asia, and the UK.

Michael (Mike) McGehee

Mike McGehee is a Professor in the Chemical and Biological Engineering Department at the University of Colorado Boulder. He is the Director of the Department of Energy's TEAMUP Consortium: Tandems for Efficient and Advanced Modules using Ultrastable Perovskites. He is a cofounder and the Chief Scientist of Tynt Technologies, a company that is commercializing dynamic windows based on reversible metal electrodeposition. He is an advisor to Swift Solar, which was cofounded by former members of his research group. His current research interests are developing new materials for smart windows and solar cells. His group makes materials and devices, performs a wide variety of characterization techniques, models devices and assesses long-term stability. He received his undergraduate degree in physics from Princeton University and his PhD degree in Materials Science from the University of California at Santa Barbara.

Dr Muriel Watt

Dr Watt is an energy sector analyst for renewable energy engineering company ITP Renewables. She also assists the Australian PV Institute (APVI) with its Australian PV Manufacturing and other initiatives.

Muriel has worked with government agencies, universities and industry in the areas of renewable energy development, policy and application since 1980. She worked at UNSW for 25 years, finishing as an

Associate Professor in the School of PV and Renewable Energy Engineering. She established and Chaired the APVI for 10 years; acted in various committee roles, including Chair, for the Australian and New Zealand Solar Energy Society; Chaired the Policy Group for the Australian CRC for Renewable Energy; and was the Australian Executive Committee member on the IEA PVPS Implementing Agreement for 10 years. She has also been a member of the Australian Solar Institute Research Advisory Committee, the Solar Flagship Education Infrastructure Fund Advisory Board and the Australia-India Solar Taskforce. In 2024 she was awarded an Order of Australia for services to the PV and Renewable Energy sector.

Nils Harder

Nils-Peter Harder studied physics in Germany and Canada (Cologne, Vancouver, Leipzig), did his Master's thesis at Forschungszentrum Jülich, and PhD research at the UNSW in Sydney, Australia.

After working as product developer at Saint-Gobain Glass, Nils joined the German photovoltaic research institute ISFH, becoming group leader for solar cell development, and Professor for Silicon-Photovoltaics at Hannover University. In the following years Nils joined the solar cell development team of SunPower in California, and later Maxeon Solar Technologies as Senior Principal Integration Engineer. Presently Nils-Peter Harder is working as senior scientist and PV system component specialist at TotalEnergies, in France.

Oliver Hartley

Oliver has over 25 years' experience in the renewable energy industry and is the managing director of Bright Dimension, a consultancy company supporting the transition to the clean energy future. In 2021, his company Epho Pty Ltd, one of Australia's largest commercial and industrial solar company, was acquired by AGL. Prior to Epho, Oliver worked in management roles across solar cell research and manufacturing, as well as M&A in the solar industry in Australia, Germany and the UK.

Oliver is an Adjunct Professor at UNSW and a member of the Industry Advisory Committee of SPREE as well as of the faculty of engineering. He also serves on the governance board of the Trailblazer for Recycling and Clean Energy, TRaCE, program. He has a PhD in physics and an MBA.

Dr Oliver Schultz-Wittman

Dr. Oliver Schultz-Wittmann earned his PhD from the University of Konstanz in 2005 after research at Fraunhofer ISE. In 2009 he co-founded U.S. start-up TetraSun, later acquired by First Solar, pioneering passivating contacts and copper plating. After roles in global PV development, in 2023 he became CTO of HoloSolis, leading its solar Gigafab project in France.

Dr Olivia Coldrey

Olivia has 25 years' experience in energy markets, specialising in climate finance policy and strategy, supporting renewable energy technologies from R&D to commercial deployment, and structuring and financing energy projects in emerging markets. She previously served as Head of Energy Finance at the UN Sustainable Energy for All, Director of Sustainable Finance at the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership, and Investment Director at the Australian Solar Institute. As a consultant, she has advised Clean Energy Finance Corporation, the Asian Development Bank, and UN Development Programme. Starting her career as a lawyer, Olivia advised on financial services transactions at Baker McKenzie, Latham & Watkins, and Export Finance Australia. She is currently a board member of Energy Peace Partners and Ekistica and represents Australia on the Executive Committee of the International Energy Agency's Photovoltaic Power Systems Programme.

A Fulbright Scholar and U.S. Department of State Climate Change Fellow, Olivia holds BEc (ANU), LLB (UNSW), LLM (LSE), and PhD (UQ) degrees. She is a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and is admitted to practice law in Australia.

Professor Paul Meredith OBE FInst FLSW

Professor Paul Meredith is Professor of Materials Physics and Director of the Centre for Integrative Semiconductor Materials at Swansea University in the UK. He also holds an Honorary Professorship in Physics at the University of Queensland. Professor Meredith's interests lie in sustainable advanced materials for optoelectronics and bioelectronics with a particular focus on materials for photovoltaics.

He has worked on a diverse range of solar technologies from molecular systems to III-V, spanning fundamental thermodynamics and electro-optics to deploying MW-scale-plant and storage. He has also contributed to the development of world-leading policy such as the Queensland Renewable Energy Target. His current interests lie in new applications of photovoltaics such as indoor light harvesting and bespoke engineered PV for space application. Professor Meredith has co-founded several solar start-up companies, has a portfolio of 30 patents and published in excess of 300 peer reviewed papers in leading international journals.

Robert Bardos

Robert has 25+ years of experience in photovoltaic technology R&D and commercialisation, initially at UNSW and subsequently at start-ups, including the UNSW spin-off company he co-founded, BT Imaging Pty Ltd, which successfully commercialised revolutionary photoluminescence imaging technology. He currently advises Open Instruments Pty Ltd. Robert has a PhD in Physics.

Ruy Sebastian (Sebastian) Bonilla

Sebastian Bonilla is an Associate Professor of Materials at the University of Oxford. He is a leading expert on the understanding of interface charge transport in solar cells, silicon photovoltaic manufacturing and characterisation.

Dr Simeon Baker-Finch

Dr Simeon Baker-Finch brings extensive experience in renewable energy, advanced manufacturing, and technology commercialisation. He was previously Chief Technology Officer at 5B, and has held leadership roles at AGL Energy and First Solar. He holds a PhD in Photovoltaic Engineering from the Australian National University and is committed to advancing Australia's clean energy transition.

Susan Mallan, Outlook Energy Advisor

Susan has worked in the energy and infrastructure sectors for over 30 years across Australia, the Middle East, Indonesia and North America. She has held leadership, commercial, advisory, technical and operational roles in renewable energy, upstream oil & gas, project development, power generation, electricity transmission and distribution.

Susan is a Fellow of the Institution of Engineers Australia and has a Company Directors Diploma (with Order of Merit), a Bachelor of Mechanical Engineering from QUT, a Graduate Diploma in Petroleum Engineering from UNSW and a Master of Business Administration from Rotterdam School of Management, Erasmus University.

Yannick Zapf

Having accelerated wind, solar and BESS projects over the past 15 years, Yannick's focus as founder and principal advisor at Newcastle-based YZ is to provide technical advisory and project development services. Yannick started his career in Germany and has worked across Europe, South Africa and all states/territories of Australia.