



Media Release

7th January 2013

The \$1.3 billion, 600 MW CERES wind farm project located on the state's Yorke Peninsula has taken a major step forward with the lodging of its project Development Application.

"This represents a major milestone for the project and a culmination of over a year's work with our expert consultants PB Consulting and a variety of specialist sub-consultants. This has resulted in one of the most comprehensive development applications for a wind farm anywhere in Australia", said Peter Sgardelis, Head of Development at REpower. The wind turbine manufacturer will manage the CERES Project on behalf of its parent company the Suzlon Group.

The project was originated by local farmers and SA developers with REpower (A Suzlon Group Company) joining them to fully develop the project which involves 36 local landowners hosting the 199 turbines over a large land area of around 18,000 hectares.

The CERES project is named after the 1800s vessel that would traverse Gulf St. Vincent carrying grain to Port Adelaide. The name was chosen because the CERES project features a unique electrical connection straight to Adelaide via 70 kilometres of underground and undersea cables – each of 300 MW in capacity. The connection uses state of the art HVDC technology, widely used in Europe, from ABB (global leader in power technology) which provides an invisible "network friendly" connection to the SA power grid in Adelaide.

"We are very proud of the final project design which incorporates three key design decisions".

First, 1,300 metres setbacks of turbines from non-involved dwellings and 600 metres spacing between turbines resulting in the, the least densely populated wind farm in Australia.

Second, there are no overhead power lines anywhere in the project – not where the turbines are and none all the way to Adelaide, resulting in the avoidance of over 180 tower structure transmission lines and allowing greater use of agricultural aircraft.

And finally, a strong policy of "prudent avoidance" – which is all about avoiding issues by designing them out upfront. This involved the careful placement of turbines and relocation of cable routes to avoid any environmental and planning issues from the outset."

"We are also very pleased to say that we have achieved Commonwealth EPBC clearance, as a non-controlled action, which paved the way for us lodge the development application with the Development Assessment Commission (DAC) last week."

The CERES project, through its unique undersea/underground electrical connection, has the potential to be enabler of other developments on the Yorke Peninsula, including;

- Potential supplier of power to the Rex Minerals' Hillside copper gold project



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- Up to a 20 MW biomass project using excess straw as feedstock – estimated to involve over 150 farm properties within 30 to 40 kilometres of the CERES wind farm
- Bringing forward the NBN to the Yorke Peninsula by concurrently laying additional optical fibre which is needed to control the sophisticated electrical connection to Adelaide

The project is planning to achieve its development approval in the first half of 2013, with commercial close during Q3 2013 and project completion by the end of 2015.

“We have consulted widely with a variety of stakeholders in both council areas and with various levels of government state and federal. We will be running three information days in January as part of bringing the community up to speed with the project and its development application.”

“The information days will be conducted in three different locations and provide a high level summary of our 1,500 plus page development application.”

The DAC will advertise its own consultation process as part of its assessment of the CERES Project and will seek comments from the public.

The benefits to local community and the state are expected to be significant with 500 jobs during construction, 50 ongoing jobs for 25 years and \$8 million in direct benefits injected annually.

“Our aim is to develop Australia’s best wind farm and we believe we are well on track to do just that”, claimed Mr. Sgardelis.

Contact: Peter Sgardelis, REpower Australia, 0408598923, peter.sgardelis@repower.com.au
More information can be found on www.theceresproject.com.au