

Press release

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OXIS Solar Centre for Autonomous Research Launches Project Helios

The OXIS Solar Centre for Autonomous Research (OSCAR) enthusiastically launches Project Helios today as a launch-pad for cheaper commercial solar energy right across the world. OSCAR is a specially built demonstration centre that houses OXIS' entire solar storage technology.

The Project Helios demonstration comprises a 3.8 kWp solar PhotoVoltaic (PV) power generation system which is fully integrated with a 3 kWh OXIS Lithium Sulfur battery. It has 16 PV panels which are connected in series to produce 600V DC and this feeds into the widely used SMA Sunny Boy Inverter to generate a 240V, 50Hz "mains" output. The inverter includes Maximum Power Point Tracking (MPPT) to ensure that the panels operate at maximum efficiency under all conditions of sunlight and temperature.

The mains output from the Sunny Boy inverter is used to power both the charger for the driverless vehicle, the Meridian Navya and the SMA Sunny Island Battery inverter which in turn charges the OXIS Lithium Sulfur battery, storing the unused excess energy generated during daylight for use after dark.

The Sunny Island and Sunny Boy inverters are currently configured in off-grid mode. However, when power is not available from either the PV panels or the battery, the system will switch to mains operation and take energy from the grid to ensure the loads remain powered. This off-grid configuration allows us to manage the loads connected to the system so that we can evaluate the performance of the OXIS battery under controlled conditions. The system can easily be reconfigured for grid connected operation where the battery is used to increase self-consumption.

The single 48V 3 kWh OXIS Lithium Sulfur battery, shown in this demonstration, can be expanded to a total of four batteries, stacked and connected in parallel, providing a total storage capacity of 12 kWh, suitable for most domestic installations in Europe. For larger systems, where a more complex arrangement is needed, the 19" Rack Mount Batteries is recommended, and this will be available later this year.

The CEO of OXIS Energy, Huw Hampson-Jones says "The significance of this technology is at this stage understated. In the continent of Africa for example, this is a breakthrough as profound as the introduction of the mobile phone and allows for the rapid commercialisation of their economies using solar energy storage systems. For Europe this technology brings a safe and cheap source of electricity for its citizens in a manner that allows its economies to lessen their dependency on oil and gas."

PROINSO Head of Asia Pacific and Storage, Stuart Macfarlane, added: “The realisation of the OXIS storage solution is perfectly timed as we continue to move into emerging markets that have a high demand for safe, reliable and cost-effective energy storage solutions. Importantly, the technology is robust and easily scalable which is crucial for use across a wide range of applications and in frequently hostile environments. PROINSO is constantly looking for that next innovation which will enable us to continue to deliver technically sophisticated solutions that showcase the best the industry can offer. Working with companies like OXIS in the development of new technologies is the foundation of this ongoing process.”

The Meridian Navya

The Meridian Navya is a driverless shuttle for transportation in areas such as theme parks, university campuses and pedestrianised town centres. The vehicle uses laser rangefinders to measure the distance to nearby buildings and other fixed points with great accuracy to ensure that the vehicle knows its exact location at anytime. This laser system is complemented by motion sensors and in addition GPS and video cameras can also be used.

About OXIS Energy Ltd

Since it was founded in 2005, OXIS Energy Ltd has been at the forefront of developing Lithium Sulfur battery technology. During the first phase the company invested heavily in design and development and is now ready to move into the production of Lithium Sulfur cells for a series of applications. With 21 families of patents, OXIS has been granted 64 patents with another 59 pending.

For more information contact:

Gaenor Howells

+44(0) 7734051341 gaenor@gaenorhowells.com www.oxisenergy.com

About PROINSO

PROINSO is a global leader in the photovoltaic industry with offices in 17 countries. PROINSO maintains an industry position as the only vertically integrated enterprise with business units covering manufacturing, procurement, distribution, financing, system integration, engineering, client services, after sales service and support, system management and O&M. These franchises operate across all the major global markets. To date PROINSO has over 1.5GW experience of systems integration in grid-tied, off-grid, storage and diesel hybrid solutions across residential, commercial, industrial and utility applications. This experience of environmental challenges, life cycle maintenance and yield optimization ensures PROINSO is able to deliver intelligently designed bespoke solutions in the most challenging environments in the world.

For more information contact:

Teresa Marticorena

+34 948 403 637 tmarticorena@proinso.net www.proinso.net