

ECO INVESTOR

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**Investments That Solve
Environmental Problems**



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stored in geothermal reservoirs between two to four kilometres underground. With the environmental pressures facing our hot, dry continent, we need to develop systems that can effectively tap into this vast and under-utilised resource.”

Researchers have seen promising results from a small-scale concept prototype developed at the Thermo-Fluids Laboratory in RMIT’s School of Aerospace, Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering.

The three-year project, funded through an Australian Research Council Linkage grant and Greener Earth Energy, will focus on further development of the prototype, performance improvement and evaluation of the dual geothermal system.

Mr Miller said the research outcomes, if successful, would be used to develop commercial systems for a range of applications, including units capable of producing 0.1 MW of electrical power and 75,000 litres of water per day, suitable for small and isolated communities off the main electricity grid.

“This project could pave the way for the effective use of suitable hydrothermal waters, offering export opportunities through the commercial manufacture of small to medium-scale dual geothermal systems,” he said

Merger Talks for Australian Renewable Fuels

Biodiesel producer Australian Renewable Fuels (ASX: ARW) is in early merger talks with Wasabi, which already holds over 24 per cent of the company.

Wasabi has some interesting renewable energy investments but is not followed by Eco Investor because it also has uranium interests.

Australian Enterprise Holdings has increased its interest in ARW from 16 to 18 per cent.

Intec Recycling Spent Pickle Liquor

Intec (ASX: INL) has begun Phase I trial work for its spent pickle liquor recycling project, which is supported by Environmental Protection Authority of Victoria with \$780,000 of funding through the HazWaste Fund.

Pickle liquor, which contains acids, is used to remove surface impurities in steel.

The first phase of the trials involves the continuous laboratory-scale testing of the particular combination of Intec Process unit operations for the feedstock, and the generation of process and engineering data.

The first continuous trial was conducted during December 2009, with the second trial and reporting of the results to be completed by the end of February. Intec said to date its technical team is pleased with the results. “However publication of the data will be limited pending the completion of Intec’s concurrent patent application process to secure the company’s relevant intellectual property.”

Phase II of the test program will involve the full-scale operation of the spent pickle liquor recycling circuit at Intec’s Burnie facility for recycling at least 50,000 litres of waste. Utilizing a dedicated zinc electro-winning cell, it will yield sufficient engineering data for the design, costing and economic modeling of the full Phase III construction and operation of the recycling plant with a minimum capacity of 1 million litres per annum.

Unlisted Companies

Small Hydro Power Projects in Australia and Asia

Andrew Jones

Director

Whitespace Private Equity

Waratah Power is an unlisted, pre-revenue company focused on the establishment of a portfolio of renewable energy generation infrastructure projects. In the first instance our focus is on securing rights to, and development of, small hydro power projects in Australia and Asia.

We seek to secure resource rights, develop those to financial and technical investment-readiness, then fund and develop through to operation on a project finance basis through either on- or off-balance sheet finance, unilaterally or in joint venture.

In addition to applying conventional run-of-river hydro technology, we will expand the exploitable resource base through the application of recently available innovative low-head technology. These technology projects are characterised by ease of installation, low installed costs, high capacity factors, turbine scale-ability, and low levelised electricity costs.

Waratah Power expects revenue from our first two Australian projects utilising the low-head hydro technology, which are currently in design and development application process, to come on-stream in 2011. Waratah Power is currently raising working capital to fund further due diligence and project preparation activities for a sizeable portfolio of projects for our Aus-