

1414 gets behind its 'Aurora' project

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SA company 1414 Degrees has completed the purchase of SolarReserve Australia, announced last month.

The \$2 million purchase includes the site of the former Aurora Solar Thermal Power Project from SolarReserve Australia.

While plans for a \$750 million 150-megawatt plant were scrapped in April this year after SolarReserve failed to secure the finance, 1414 Degrees wants to use the site for its own solar storage pilot project.

1414 Degrees, led by chairman Kevin Moriarty, pictured, plans to set up a 70MW solar panel farm and one or two modules of its thermal energy storage system (TESS).

1414 Degree's patented TESS stores energy as latent heat in molten silicon.

Essentially the system uses solar, wind or gas to melt silicon – at 1414 degrees Celsius – to store and discharge the energy at an optimal time. As well as producing electricity, excess heat can also be used in industrial processes.

1414 Degrees has renamed SolarReserve as SiliconAurora.

"Our plan is to progressively increase the generation at the Aurora Project," Dr Moriarty said.

"This will limit capital servicing requirements while our technology is proved at increasing scale to more than 1000MWh."

1414 Degrees also announced commercial development manager Marie Pavlik would be the new chief executive of SiliconAurora to drive the development of the project.

Ms Pavlik will begin in the role in January.

Mr Moriarty said Ms Pavlik's appointment was key and that the Aurora project is a milestone project for the company, which will demonstrate its grid scale system.