

RENEWABLE ENERGY

NORTHERN TERRITORY, AUSTRALIA

The Northern Territory (NT) is a world leader in renewable energy. Thanks to an abundance of sunlight year round, solar power is the NT's biggest renewable energy source. The ongoing development of renewable projects and remote engineering solutions throughout the NT has made it a national and international showcase for the energy sector.



MAJOR PROJECTS

Alice Springs is one of Australia's officially-designated **Solar Cities**, having participated in the Australian Government Solar Cities program. Significant investment in solar projects in Alice Springs has continued since the initial program launch in 2008, with a number of iconic large scale solar projects being established across residential and commercial sectors. Many of these can be visited as part of a conference programme.

One of these developments is the **Uterne facility** which means 'bright sunny day' in the local Indigenous Arrernte language. The 4.1 megawatt solar power station in Alice Springs is the southern hemisphere's largest tracking solar power system. It can produce 7230 megawatt hours of electricity per year.

Subsequent to the Alice Solar Cities projects, the **Yulara Solar Project** was commissioned at Uluru in 2016, to provide environmentally sensitive and affordable energy to the extensive Voyages Ayers Rock Resort. The project is an exemplar of what might be achieved at other remote resort destinations and provides an ecotourism showcase at one of Australia's most culturally significant and popular tourist destinations.

NT Airports has also undertaken a range of award-winning solar projects which demonstrate the organisation's commitment to positive sustainability outcomes. In recognition in 2017, **Darwin International Airport** was awarded the Asia-Pacific Green Airports Platinum Award for its 15,000 panel, six hectare solar farm which produces up to 25% of the airport's overall energy needs.

In the waste management sector, Darwin's **Shoal Bay Renewable Energy Facility** was the first 'waste to energy' facility established in a tropical region. It

produces electricity from methane gas harvested from landfill, with the capacity to power 1800 Darwin homes. Since it opened, the plant has prevented some 46,000 tonnes of CO2 per year from entering the atmosphere.



EDUCATION AND TRAINING

The Northern Territory's Centre for Renewable Energy is a partnership between Charles Darwin University and the Northern Territory Government. The research it undertakes into amorphous silicon solar cells design, fluid mechanics and turbines, biomass production, hydraulic and hydrodynamic modelling reflects the NT's continued commitment to driving innovation in this field and is an indicator of the resident on-ground expertise.

Desert Knowledge Australia's Solar Centre, located in Alice Springs, is a training and demonstration facility for commercialised solar technologies operating in arid conditions. Enhancing the Solar Centre, the NT Government in 2017 announced the opening of the **Intyalheme Centre for Future Energy** (Intyalheme). Intyalheme, which means 'fire starting up again' in Arrernte, is a AUD \$6 million investment in testing and knowledge sharing about the next generation energy grids in Central Australia. Intyalheme is part of the NT Government's commitment to a 50% renewable energy supply target by 2030. A visit to the Centre or a presentation by a local expert can make a fascinating inclusion to a conference held in Alice Springs.

DID YOU KNOW?



For 30 years, the Northern Territory has played host to the biennial **World Solar Challenge**, a 3000 kilometre solar-powered vehicle race from Darwin to Adelaide. The event is an engineering competition which attracts teams from secondary and tertiary institutions from around the world. Their vehicles aim to travel the 3000 kilometre distance between the two cities in the most energy-efficient manner.



Uluru's **Field of Light** art installation by international artist Bruce Munro, is powered by solar energy. Munro's field of 50,000 stems crowned with frosted-glass spheres, come to life as darkness falls over Uluru. Conference and incentive participants can experience this solar-energy masterpiece in a range of different ways, when the desert 'blooms' each evening.

NT INDUSTRY LEADERS IN THE RENEWABLES SECTOR

Powercorp, a world leader in power systems engineering was established by Alan Langworthy in the NT in the 1970s before being on-sold to global technology giant ABB in 2011. Powercorp pioneered the technology that enables remote communities to have city-quality power derived almost entirely from renewable sources. Powercorp was also instrumental in the development of high-penetration wind diesel systems. **Alan Langworthy** continues to consult on a range of international projects in the renewable sector from his base in Darwin.

Ekistica (formerly known as CAT Projects) is an indigenous-owned engineering consultancy. It specialises in providing technical services and advice regarding power systems engineering and remote area project management. Led by **Lyndon Frearson** and based in Alice Springs, Ekistica delivers projects throughout Australia and the Asia-Pacific. Bushlight was one of Ekistica's flagship projects, providing electricity to remote communities and locations in Australia and overseas. In 2011, Ekistica was recognised with the prestigious engineering accolade, the Sir William Hudson Award, for its Bushlight India Project.



"In 2018, Alice Springs will play host to the Australasian Remote Renewable Energy Conference and Exhibition. The conference will focus on the power of microgrids, which dominate the power systems of remote and regional Australia. Alice Springs is an ideal destination for this inaugural conference, having been recognised as a national leader in rural and remote energy delivery. Delegates to the conference will have the opportunity to tap into the latest knowledge, including presentations from both international and local experts. There will also be live demonstrations of the latest technology during off-site technical tours to specialty centres such as Desert Knowledge Australia's Solar Centre and other Alice Springs locations. Alice Springs is Australia's iconic capital of solar, and with enormous skills and know-how delivering energy in remote regions both here and overseas, we want to share this experience with the energy solutions market."

Lauren Ganley
CEO, Desert Knowledge Australia



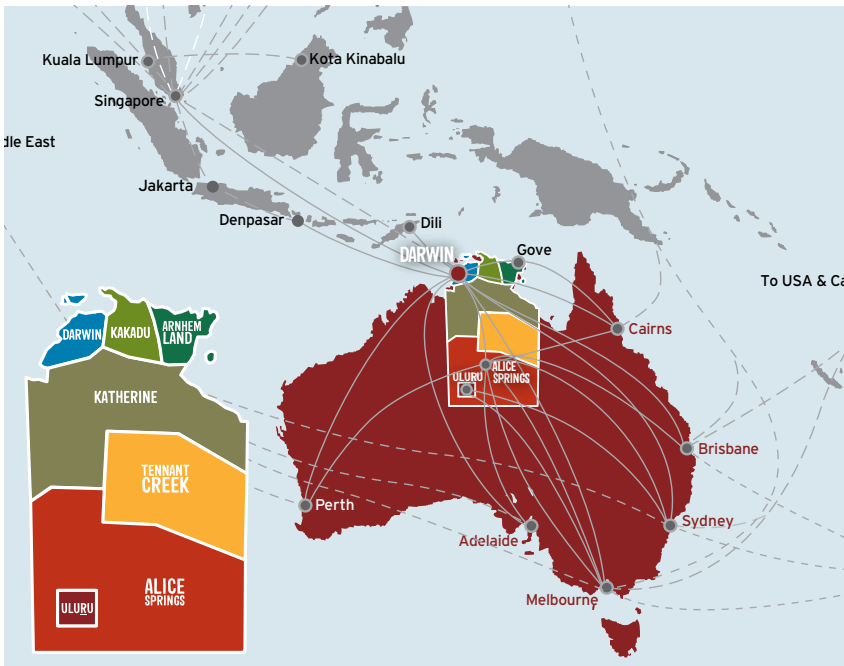
"People have lived and thrived in a desert for millennia, despite its challenges - the desert is a place that punishes impatience, but rewards engagement. The communities of remote Australia, be they old or new, have engaged with the desert through the telling of stories, the sharing of knowledge. Indeed, their very survival was often dependent on those stories. Modern business events can no longer be successful if premised on slick powerpoints and quirky presentations - they have to be built on genuine engagement and sharing of knowledge; personal stories being shared to build a common narrative. The question then is not whether it is viable to have an event in a place like Alice Springs, rather, it is whether your event will be viable without coming to a place that demands the engagement of your attendees; an event that results in a common story that the future success of your industry can be built on"

Lyndon Frearson
Managing Director and Principal Consultant, Ekistica

WHY MEET IN THE NT?

Australia's Northern Territory has a proven track record at boosting delegate attendance due to its strong destination appeal, as well as its direct relevance to the renewable energy sector. The destination provides a depth of local expertise from individuals and community organisations who can enhance an NT event with potential guest speakers, delegates, sponsors and exhibitors. NT not-for-profit organisations can also benefit reciprocally from socially responsible or legacy activities that Business Events can generate. There is further opportunity to facilitate connections with local experts and organisations through technical tours and off-site visits to local facilities to meet with like-minded industry colleagues.

The Northern Territory is just two hours flying time from its nearest Asian neighbour. It is accessible from all major airports throughout Australia, as well as intra-Territory flights between the key business event destinations of Darwin, Alice Springs and Uluru.



EXTRAORDINARY REGIONS

The NT has seven regions, each with distinct climates and amazingly different terrain and attractions, as well as an ancient and rich Indigenous culture. The lush and tropical "Top End" region at the northernmost tip of Australia includes the cosmopolitan harbour-front city of Darwin, plus the World Heritage-listed Kakadu, Australia's largest national park. With a natural harbour, river estuaries and a coastline more than 5,000 kilometres long, the Top End is a fishing, sailing and cruising paradise. Further south, lies the stunning desert landscape of the "Red Centre", which is home to icons such as Uluru (Ayers Rock), Kata Tjuta (the Olgas) and Alice Springs, the quintessential Australian outback town. Iconic activities include camel rides across the desert, dot-painting workshops and magical outback dinners under the stars.



NORTHERN TERRITORY CONVENTION BUREAU (NTCB)

The NTCB is the business events division of Tourism NT, which sits within the NT Government's Department of Tourism and Culture. The bureau's role is to market and promote the Northern Territory as a distinctive and effective business events destination. With strong local knowledge, experience and extensive links to business and government networks, the bureau provides free expert advice and assistance to business event planners. The NTCB team can assist with bid preparation, destination information and supplier liaison to deliver an inspiring and memorable NT event.

FIND OUT MORE

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