**Building Integrated Photovoltaics (BIPV) Enabler**

**$100k** Funded by ARENA

**$320k** Total project cost

* **Lead Organisation** Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (RMIT)

**Location** Melbourne, Victoria

* **Start Date** November 2019
* **Project Partners** City of Greater Bendigo, International Energy Agency PV Power System (IEA PVPS) Task 15 BIPV, Energus Pty Ltd, International Building Performance Simulation Association, Smart Energy Council, Australian PV Institute, Aurecon, Norman Disney & Young

**Summary**

The Building Integrated Photovoltaics (BIPV) Enabler project will develop a user friendly platform that integrates product, regulation, technical, economic and construction data to create a leading Building Integrated Photovoltaics (BIPV) solution.

**Need**

Building integrated photovoltaics are solar power modules that are built into a structure in place of standard building materials.

BIPV adoption has been slow in Australia due to restrictive building and construction standards, as well as the complexities in informing and educating a broad-based industry (design, to construction and operation stages) about product availability, standards and cost-effective solutions.

However, building a case for widespread adoption of BIPV is also difficult without easily accessible information and availability of value-for-money solutions.

**Action**

This project will develop a product database that includes standard guidelines and user-friendly interfaces to help facilitate the decision to use BIPV at the conceptual building design stage.

The platform will provide a tool that complies with construction codes, design, installation and maintenance options and configures easy-to-use interfaces for different stakeholders.

This one-stop solution aims to deliver value for a range of users including PV manufacturers (to aid product promotion) building professionals (to assist with BIPV design) as well as construction and facility management professionals.

**Outcome**

This project will provide the facility required to move BIPV from Commercial Readiness Index (CRI) 2 to (CRI) 3 in Australia and should accelerate market adoption of BIPV that unifies precast PV modules with the overall building outer surface, including every wall and window in both residential and commercial buildings.

The project will enable all BIPV products and studies to be applied in the real building market as easily as possible.

**Additional impact**

Industry workshops will be organised in capital cities for the participants from the building and PV sectors to run through the entire BIPV design process and discuss the scope for future investment.

The platform will also be exhibited in industry conferences and exhibitions.