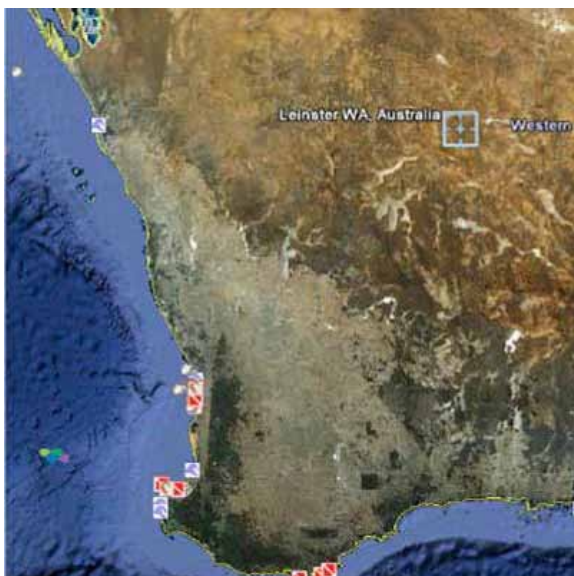


PROJECT SHEET BHP–Billiton Nickel, West Leinster WA, Solar Rooftops Project 300kW PROJECT

In October of 2009, BHP–Billiton Nickel Division chose Commsolar, the commercial division of Solarshop to construct BHP–Billiton’s first Solar PV project of scale, incorporating 195 x 1.5kW systems, located in the township of Leinster, WA. Located in the northern goldfields of WA, 870km North East of Perth, the township of Leinster supports the local Nickel mining operation owned by BHP Billiton. The local town management tendered for the development of a multiple rooftop solar PV project, to augment all buildings in the town with Solar PV micro power systems. Commsolar & Solarshop was selected as the preferred contractor due to its demonstrated project and value management and technical expertise in the delivery of remote–site PV system solutions.

After shading of multiple rooftops was identified as a project risk, the Commsolar team developed and executed a mitigation plan that accurately measured shade impact of affected sites, and recommended the use of high efficiency thin film technology, with the client ultimately selecting cutting edge Copper–Indium–deSelenide (CIS) modules produced by Solar Frontier, the world’s second largest thin film PV module manufacturer. Commsolar provided further innovation by developing a project–specific framing solution that reduced installation time.

This project has allowed Commsolar and Solarshop to demonstrate its capabilities to develop and execute to detailed project management planning for remote site work, and ability to deploy on short notice and to firm time constraints, using technologies that are proven, reliable and bankable.



PROJECT DETAILS

Client:

BHP Billiton Nickel Division

Approximate value:

Total project CapEx \$1.5m

Contract type:

Prime Contract Lump Sum

Project complete:

2011

Panels:

195 x 1.5kWp Solar Frontier CIS thin film panels

Inverters:

SMA inverter plant, with full web–based remote power system monitoring

Location:

West Leinster, WA

