

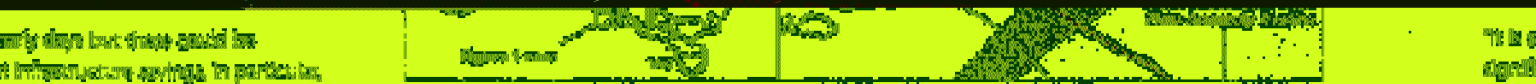
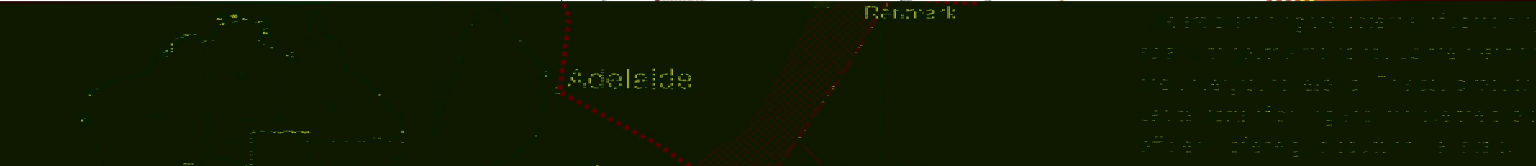
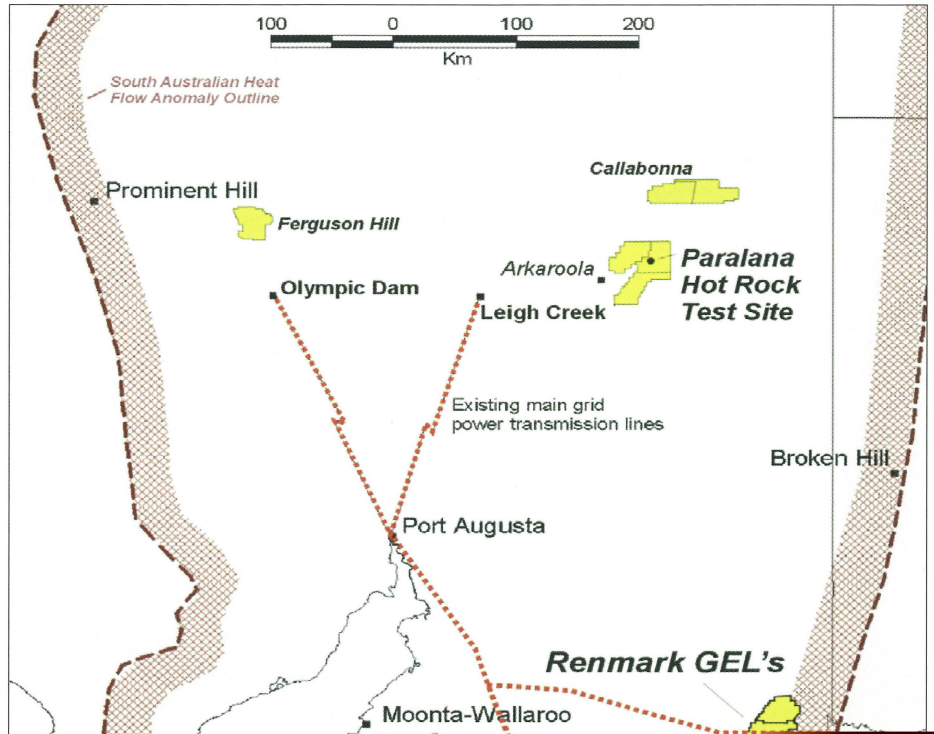
Petratherm Sees Sun-Rock Synergy

The potential to combine geothermal energy with that of the sun to create 'hybrid' energy solutions is being examined by geothermal developers Petratherm.

Combining geothermal and solar energy into a hybrid is a natural evolution for Australia's renewable energy market, as few other countries are blessed with Australia's solar footprint nor the natural abundance of its hot radiogenic granites.

Petratherm owns the advanced Paralana geothermal project in South Australia's Flinders Ranges, which is expected to provide Australia's first commercial hot rocks electricity supply when it enters production in 2010.

Petratherm's Managing Director, Terry Kallis, said the company was examining how geothermal and solar energy technologies can be united to form a hybrid solution.



Continued on page 07 **Petratherm's South Australian projects**

Continued from page 66

by providing large-scale, base load power for remote or off-grid applications – notably in the booming mining sector.”

Kallis said independent energy analysts were tipping geothermal energy to supply 8% of Australia’s total energy consumption as early as 2030 – equivalent to around 4,000 megawatts per annum. He believes the geothermal sector is stepping up to the challenge, with more than 33 hot rock explorers now active in Australia and

around 277 geothermal exploration licences granted – most of them in South Australia.

The critical project issues currently facing the industry include the significant capital cost of drilling, plant and grid connections and identifying and developing a thermal resource which can offer sustained performance in temperature differential, volumes and achieved commercial rates of flow.

Petratherm’s is planning to drill its first deep well at its flagship JV Paralana Project in

the second half of 2008, and have already completed the major seismic study to determine where best to locate the 4 km deep heat exchanger well.

Initial commercialisation of Paralana will involve the deployment of a 7.5 MW power station and expanding to 30 MW over time, to supply the nearby Beverley Uranium mine.

The project is being developed in conjunction with Beach Petroleum Limited. ■