The potential for geothermal energy development in Australia

The Australian Geothermal Energy Industry is in its infancy and it has reached some important milestones since the first exploration company listed on the ASX only ten years ago. Commonwealth projections for the industry’s development indicate a significant contribution from geothermal energy to national energy supply by 2050. The industry expects that this will include energy production from a range of resource types and technology applications including electricity production from Enhanced Geothermal Systems (EGS) and from Hot Sedimentary Aquifer (HSA) resources and from the direct use of heat in large and small scale applications. While the range of available geothermal resources in Australia can be expected to support all these applications, technology development is being undertaken in Australia and across the world to improve the component technologies and techniques in order to reduce the risk of exploring for and exploiting the resource and the cost of doing so. Australia is playing an important part in this global effort through both industry and research activities. The policy pathway is now in place with the finalisation of the legislation establishing an emissions trading scheme in Australia and the allocation of funds to support the development of clean energy technologies. Some significant milestones for the industry are expected in 2012/13 and the challenge for the Australian sector is to build on the progress achieved thus far and to achieve the technological advances required to mainstream geothermal energy and to reach cost competitiveness in the national market.

All welcome, drink and nibbles follow.

Wednesday, 4 April at 3:30- 4:45pm

TeleTheatre (opp South 3), Information Science and Technology (IST) Building
Building 47, off Physical Sciences Road, Car park 15 - parking fees apply - www.flinders.edu.au/map
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