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Hydrogen fuel cell start-up, Carnegie, Samsung join SA storage race

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Carnegie Clean Energy is joining forces with Samsung EDI and Lendlease in a bid for the battery storage contract in SA. **Glenn Campbell**

by [Simon Evans](#) [Ben Potter](#)

A Melbourne-based hydrogen fuel cell group and ASX-listed Carnegie Clean Energy have joined the race for the South Australian government's 100 megawatt battery tender aimed at shoring up the state's fragile power grid by next summer.

Carnegie Energy has joined forces with Samsung SDI and Lendlease in a bid to build a 100MW storage battery in South Australia as a field of more than 20 syndicates jostles for the contract - part of the government's plan to stabilise the state's fragile grid.

Software billionaire Mike Cannon-Brookes, who put batteries on the front page when he challenged Tesla founder Elon Musk to make good his promise to build the battery in 100 days, said he was "thrilled at the level of interest" and is "talking with many of the parties bidding" via his Grok Ventures.

Applied Nano Technologies' director Noel Dunlop said the company would offer four 25MW hydrogen battery farms for about \$300 million at four locations near wind

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Carnegie CEO Dr Michael Ottaviano, EMC photo: Supplied . Supplied

Scepticism surrounds hydrogen fuel cell technology after the failure of Australian company Ceramic Fuel Cells, which grew out of CSIRO's Bluegen technology that worked at very high temperatures, failed to find a market and was sold off.

ANT uses a new version of fuel cell technology developed by Canadian-Belgian company Hydrogenics which operates at much lower temperatures and Dr Dunlop said it was being trialled in a train made by Alstom in Germany.

It's time

Dr Dunlop said the distributed hydrogen batteries would not depend on any one transmission line and the long-hyped technology's time had finally arrived.

Carnegie managing director Michael Ottaviano said the company's Energy Made Clean unit was bidding and having Samsung SDI as a partner was a huge plus.



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Dr Ottaviano said Carnegie had already delivered more than 25 utility scale battery systems in Australia and would create an energy storage hub in SA if it won.

He said Samsung SDI had just completed delivery of the world's largest battery storage facility in California earlier this year - 120MW plant - in six months.

The Carnegie consortium is among a range of big players vying for the contract to build the battery storage plant in South Australia, which is part of the [state government's \\$550 million energy plan](#) announced more than two weeks ago. The South Australian Government will now sift through the bids before proceeding to the next stage. Bids have come from Asia, France, Switzerland, the United States and the United Kingdom.

Crowded field



Greensmith CEO John Jung at the Zen Energy headquarters in Adelaide on Monday. **Supplied**

[US firm Greensmith](#) is bidding with local partner ZEN Energy, headed by Ross Garnaut. Greensmith says it has installed one third of the grid scale battery storage in North America - including a role in the emergency roll out of battery storage in California last year.

Greensmith chief executive John Jung said the SA project would create about 100 temporary jobs and help build expertise for the industry. "There is a lot at stake here," he said.

Lyon Group, which [on Thursday revealed it would build a \\$1 billion solar energy and battery plant](#) in South Australia's Riverland district, is also a bidder in the separate process to supply the 100MW storage battery.

AGL Energy said in a statement it "will be participating in the tender process". Chief executive Andy Vesey flagged AGL's interest during an investors' tour of the Torrens

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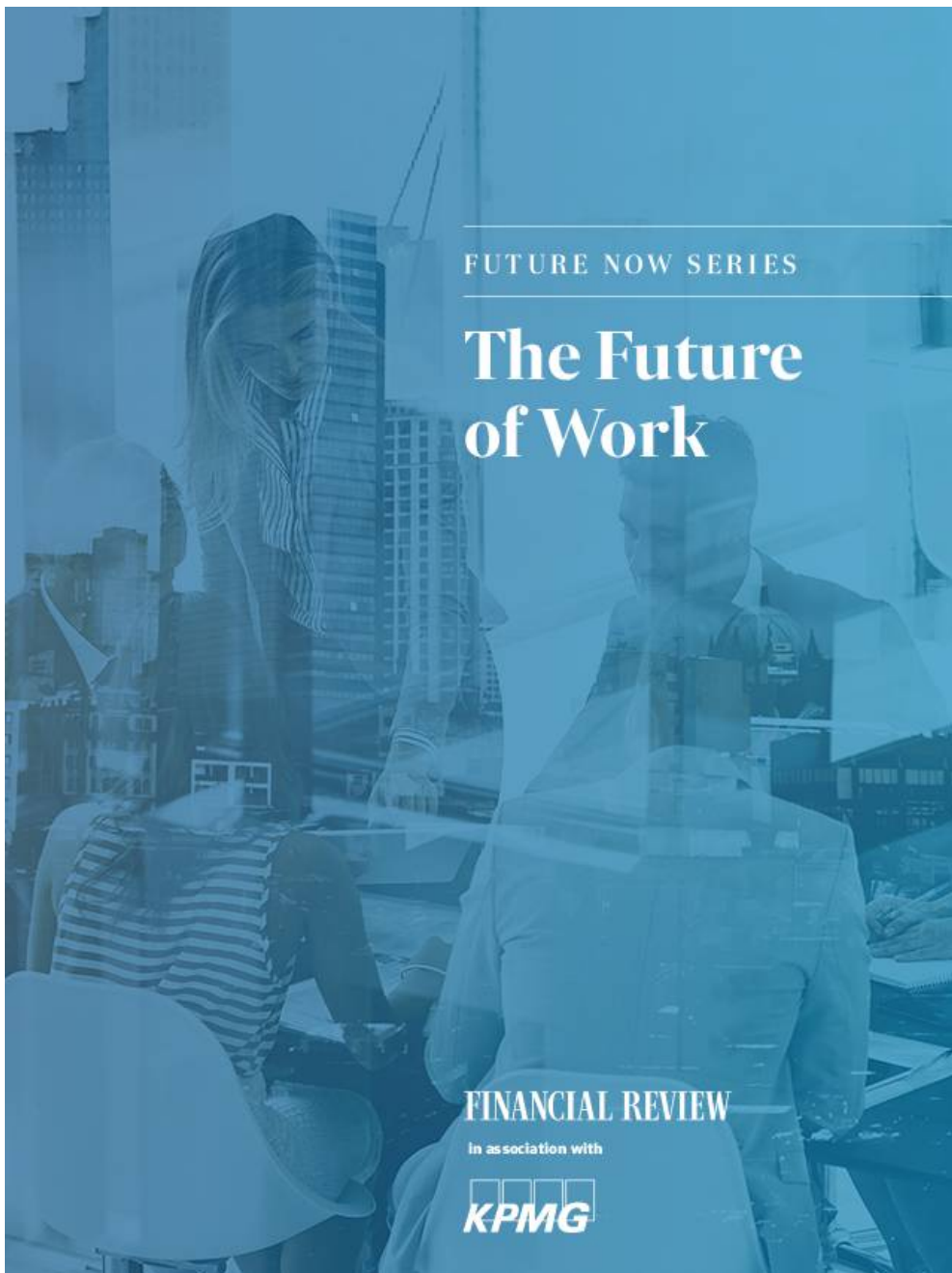
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South Australian Premier Jay Weatherill has referred several times since announcing his energy plan to the "reputational benefit" for SA of having a big player like Tesla involved. Tesla has been working with Mr Cannon-Brookes following a conversation which began on Twitter between the two billionaires, Elon Musk and Mike Cannon-Brookes. Mr Musk pledged to build a battery in [under 100 days or "it's free"](#).

Carnegie Clean Energy's Dr Ottaviano said as renewable energy penetration inevitably increased across Australia "the need for utility scale energy storage will grow in lockstep".



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