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Govt assists Greenearth project

Angela Kean
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GREENEARTH Energy has been awarded a \$25 million grant from the Victorian government to advance its Geelong Geothermal Power Project.

The company will receive \$5 million to fund the drilling of a deep geothermal production well, an injection well and flow testing.

Greenearth will drill to depths of up to 4000m to test temperatures.

The Weatherford Drilling International Rig 828 has been secured for the initial stage and drilling is scheduled to begin in the second half of 2010.

On successful completion of stage one, an additional \$20 million will be granted for the construction of a \$64 million, 12-megawatt geothermal demonstration plant.

Greenearth managing director Mark Miller said the company's highest priority was to secure the remaining funding to begin stage one as soon as possible.

If successful, the Geelong Geothermal Power Project could eventually power more than 120,000 homes with clean renewable energy.

Preliminary work by Greenearth shows that the geothermal resource at the site is capable of supporting greater than 140MW of renewable base-load power generation.

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