

# New hybrid street light system a world first

*An innovative street lighting system that runs on both wind and solar energy has just been introduced to New Zealand.*

regularly disrupted, or where the cost of cabling is prohibitive, such as parks, remote intersections, carparks, wetland and reserve areas bordering residential developments, and villages

in the Pacific Islands.

The Eolgreen street light is unique in that it harnesses both solar and wind power, overcoming the problem of batteries running down during periods of cloudy

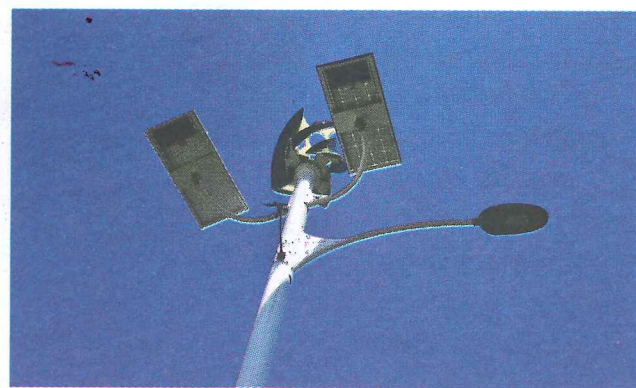
or poor weather, which can happen with solar powered systems.

"It is rare to have both no sun or wind, so there is never a shortage of power with the Eolgreen system. In fact it generates a surplus that is stored and could have other uses, such as illuminating signage, or powering CCTV," says Peter.

The low-speed wind turbine used in the system is the first of its kind in the world and is able to generate power from wind at very low speeds of just 1.7 metres per second.

"To provide wind power in an urban environment with far less scale than big wind farm turbines is really impressive. The blades are mounted vertically and crafted to ensure all the energy available from the wind is captured for maximum power generation."

Peter says there are some "additional spin-offs" when it comes to the system's technology, as data on the light, power generation and wind speeds are captured and can be accessed remotely via the internet.



The Hiway Group has picked up the Asia/Pacific distribution rights for the Eolgreen hybrid street lighting system and has installed its first demonstrator model in the Jasper Avenue carpark at Mount Roskill for Auckland Transport.

"This exciting new technology is hot off the press and was developed by a major university in Spain. We are gathering data and evidence from the demonstrator model to show it is the real deal, and have just ordered another shipment, which is due in New Zealand around April," says Hiway Group chief operating officer Peter Metcalfe.

With no cabling or connection required to operate the street lighting system, it is particularly well suited to areas where power generation is challenging,

"The council's street lighting department are able to monitor the light's performance without having to drive around at night to check on it."

Hiway Group plans to market the system to Fiji and other Pacific Islands in the short term, and there is already interest from other councils in New Zealand.

Peter says the addition of Eolgreen diversifies the portfolio of the group, which has made its name as a roading contractor, carrying out road recycling and stabilisation works.

"Street lighting is not a major departure from our core business as it is still an aspect of roading infrastructure. Recycling is also a big part of

the company's DNA, whether we are crushing concrete or re-using energy."

Hiway Group is an innovator that has introduced other new technologies to New Zealand, including the first foam bitumen stabilised pavements.

"We're always looking at cutting edge innovations in international markets, and invest a lot in research and development to provide the best solutions for our customers. It was this research that led us to Eolgreen, which is leading the world when it comes to hybrid lighting. We believe this product has tremendous potential right across the Asia/Pacific region given its benefits of zero-cost energy production."

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