The total income for 2010 for the Australian Research Council (ARC) Photovoltaics Centre of Excellence was $6.8 million. This does not include over $2 million from the Host Institution based on EFTSU and related income. This income has been generated by the Centre through its educational activities that have formed the basis of a School within the Faculty of Engineering. This income has been used for the development of new courses and teaching materials and to fund the salaries of most of the academic staff associated with the Centre.

The largest two components of Centre income in terms of cash contributions were from the ARC with $2.1 million for the Centre Grant and industry with $2.0 million. The former was complemented by a further $0.49 million in ARC funding for other grants. However, for the latter, in-kind contributions for collaborative research add a further almost $1 million, effectively making industry funds the largest income source for the Centre for the fourth consecutive year. With the booming photovoltaic industry, the success of Centre PV technology and the high demand for companies wishing to work with the Centre, this trend is expected to continue.

Figure 7.2 shows a more detailed breakdown of income derived from industry and related sources. The largest industry contributor was again Suntech-Power, but with the majority of the $0.63 million being in-kind contributions resulting from most of the collaborative research being carried out at the premises of Suntech in China. The largest cash contributor was the consortium of Toyota, General Electric, Schlumberger and ExxonMobil for the Global Climate & Energy Project, administered by the Stanford University, who contributed $0.61 million. The next three largest cash contributions were from CSG Solar from Australia, Shinsung Holdings from Korea and Guodian Solar from China, each contributing about $0.3 million. Other cash and in-kind contributions have been made by a large number of industry collaborators and contributors of whom the most significant have been Hyundai Heavy Industries, the European Commission, Renewable Energy Corporation (REC), BP Solar, CEEG Nanjing PV Tech, Toyota Motor Group, E-ton Solar, Silex, Roth & Rau, Global Sunrise Energy, Infigen Energy, the Australian Academy of Science and Advent Solar. In addition, many other companies contribute to the Centre through the expertise and experience they offer in collaborative research areas and the in-kind support they provide through access to equipment, facilities and personnel not available at UNSW.

The third largest cash component of income was Host Institution support. UNSW contributed $1.0 million not including additional Host Institution support in the form of EFTSU and related income. The next largest cash component of income was $0.70 million from the State Government, primarily through the Department of State and Regional Development (DSRD). This funding has been particularly important for the purchase of new equipment and the development of facilities.

Other Centre contracts, consulting work and technology transfers are conducted through NewSouth Innovations, the commercial arm of the university. These are handled on behalf of
the Centre of Excellence and its staff through the NewSouth Innovations accounts and not included in this financial report.

The Centre also earns income through the sale of educational CDs, books and computer software and running short courses.

Centre 2010 Expenditure of ARC Grant was $2.3 million as shown in Figure 7.3, approximately $200k more than the corresponding income. By far the largest component of expenditure was for salaries and scholarships with $1.4 million, including for research appointments, technical support, administrative staff, financial management, specialised consultants and facility cleaning. Appointments include full-time, part-time and casual.

Equipment expenditure, mainly for small items or small contributions leveraged to purchase large items, was $101k from the ARC Grant. With the large amount of industry funded research, travel expenditure was quite significant at $145k, with several staff and students making many trips to industry partners for industry collaborative research and technology transfers. Other travel included attendance and paper presentation at international conferences.

Another major component of Centre expenditure from the ARC grant is on consumables and maintenance with $633K. These costs are strongly dominated by laboratory consumables to support the device research such as high purity gases, chemicals and general laboratory supplies.