



# Work in progress

AN INITIATIVE to harness renewable energy to power phone towers in remote areas will be the focus of a Government-funded partnership between a local company and a Curtin University masters student.

Canning Vale-based company Regen Power was the first organisation to be awarded funding under the Australian Government's \$10 million dollar Researchers in Business program.

The company received \$50,000 to employ Curtin University mechanical engineering masters student Anil Kumar to assist with the project.

Launched earlier this year by Innovation Minister Kim Carr, the program was designed to encourage direct collaboration between business and the research sector.

Funding is provided to small and medium-sized businesses to employ a researcher for up to 12 months to develop new commercial ideas.

Managing director of Regen Power Chem Nayar said Mr Kumar's mechanical engineering background would complement Regen's existing expertise.

Mr Nayar said power for remote towers generally came from diesel generators, which were relatively cheap to install but quite expensive to maintain.

He said the project aimed to use a combination of wind and solar generation as part of an easily installed system that would require no running costs or carbon emissions.



**Chem Nayar and Anil Kumar.**

Picture: Marcelo Palacios [www.communitypix.com.au](http://www.communitypix.com.au)