A new solar technology training facility has been located on the rooftop of RMIT’s Building 57 for the School of Engineering TAFE (SoE TAFE).

The Electrical Trades Union had requested that their members undergo renewable energy training with a view to increasing their engagement with industry.

Renewable energy competencies are part of the new Electro technology training package and the equipment will be used in the electrical apprentice training program.

The project has been funded by the Australian Government through the Teaching and Learning Capital Fund (TLCF) for Vocational Education and Training (VET). The government grant of $730,000 covered the cost of the facility that comprises of solar, wind and hydro technologies as alternative energy sources.

Fourteen students from the school assisted with the assembly and installation of three large solar panel grids. Each of the solar panels is connected to data telecommunications cabling, allowing data from the panels to be recorded and stored on site, and transmitted directly into the class rooms below.