

# ***A NEW 500 m<sup>2</sup> PARABOLOIDAL DISH SOLAR CONCENTRATOR***

**K Lovegrove, G Burgess, J Pye, R Brunswick,  
J Coventry, J Cumpston  
Solar Thermal Group – School of Engineering  
CECS, Australian National University  
(<http://solar-thermal.anu.edu.au>)**



# Solar Thermal at ANU



Old and new



# Our history



# Why Dishes?

	Trough	Tower	
System	SEGs VI	SolarTres	Dish 10
	Serg&Lund	Serg&Lund	ANU
Size	30MWe	13.6MWe	10MWe
Solar Field Optical Efficiency	0.533	0.56	0.85
Receiver thermal efficiency	0.729	0.783	0.9
Transient effects			0.92
Piping loss efficiency	0.961	0.995	0.961
Storage Efficiency	1	0.983	1
Turbine power cycle efficiency	0.35	0.405	0.35
Electric loss efficiency	0.827	0.864	0.86
Power plant availability	0.98	0.92	0.94
<b>Annual Solar to Electric Eff</b>	<b>10.59%</b>	<b>13.81%</b>	<b>19.14%</b>



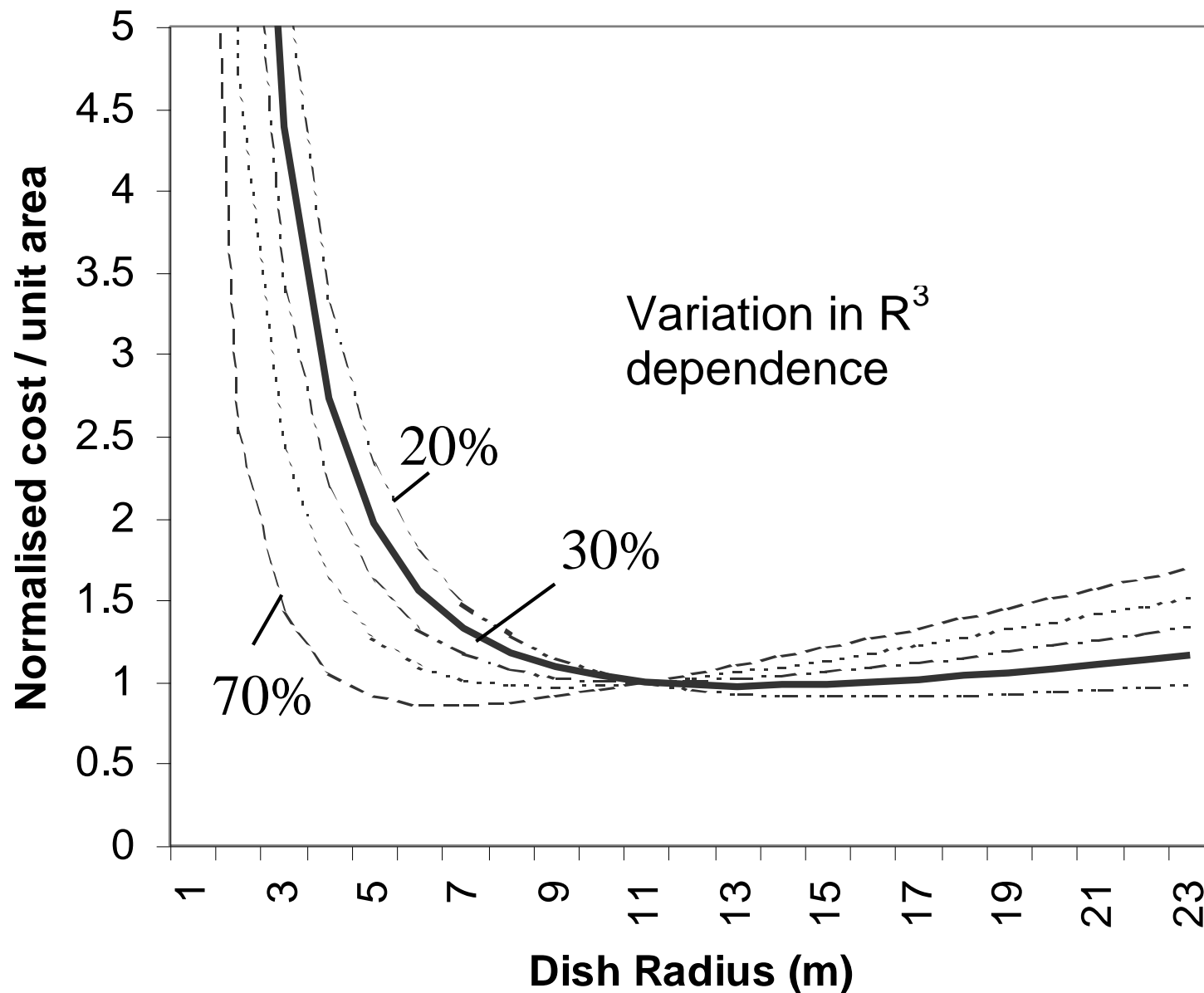
# Why Dishes II?

- 1500+ suns = high temperatures = solar driven chemical reactions





# Why Big Dishes?

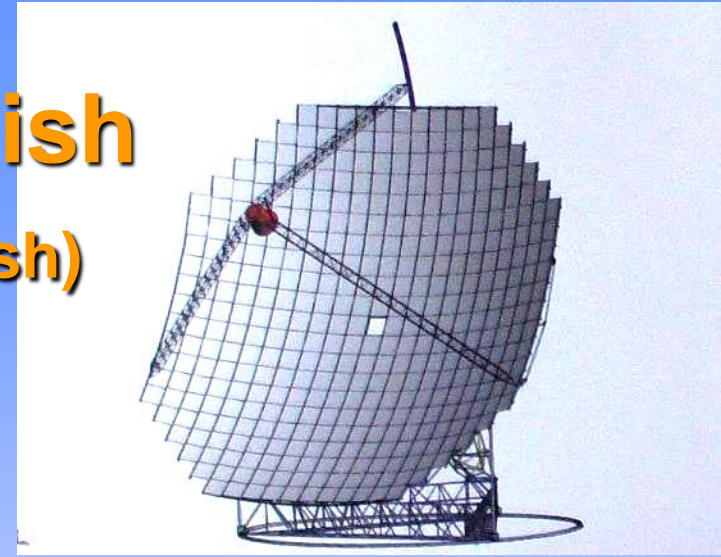






# The Gen II Big Dish

(the slightly bigger dish)



- A large aperture, Altitude Azimuth tracking dish
- Completely re-engineered for mass production
- Identical spherical mirror panels
- Formed on an accurate jig
- Space-frame based on circular pipe with simple welded joins





## Details



**Aperture 494m<sup>2</sup>**

- **Focal length 13.4m**
- **Average diameter 25m**
- **Average rim angle 50.1°**
- **Mirror reflectivity 93.5%**
- **Number of mirrors 380**
- **Mirror size 1165mm x 1165mm**
- **Total mass of dish 19.1t**
- **Total mass of base and supports 7.3t**



# Rigorous integrated systems design approach

Mirrors

Receiver

Structure

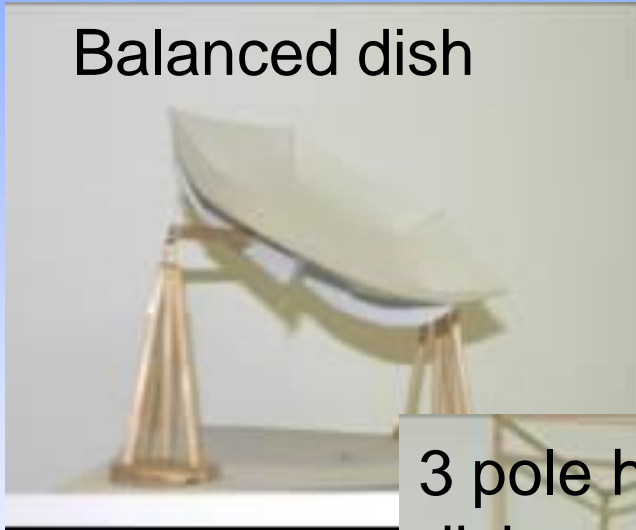
Conversion

Foundations

Actuation

# All aspects re-visited - Geometry options included..

Balanced dish



Rolling dish



Mushroom dish



3 pole hanging dish



Polar Equatorial dish





**Site works started Feb 08...**









Jig will be re-used on  
future Wizard Power  
projects











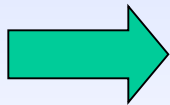
Photogrammetry used to  
measure / adjust  
support point positions



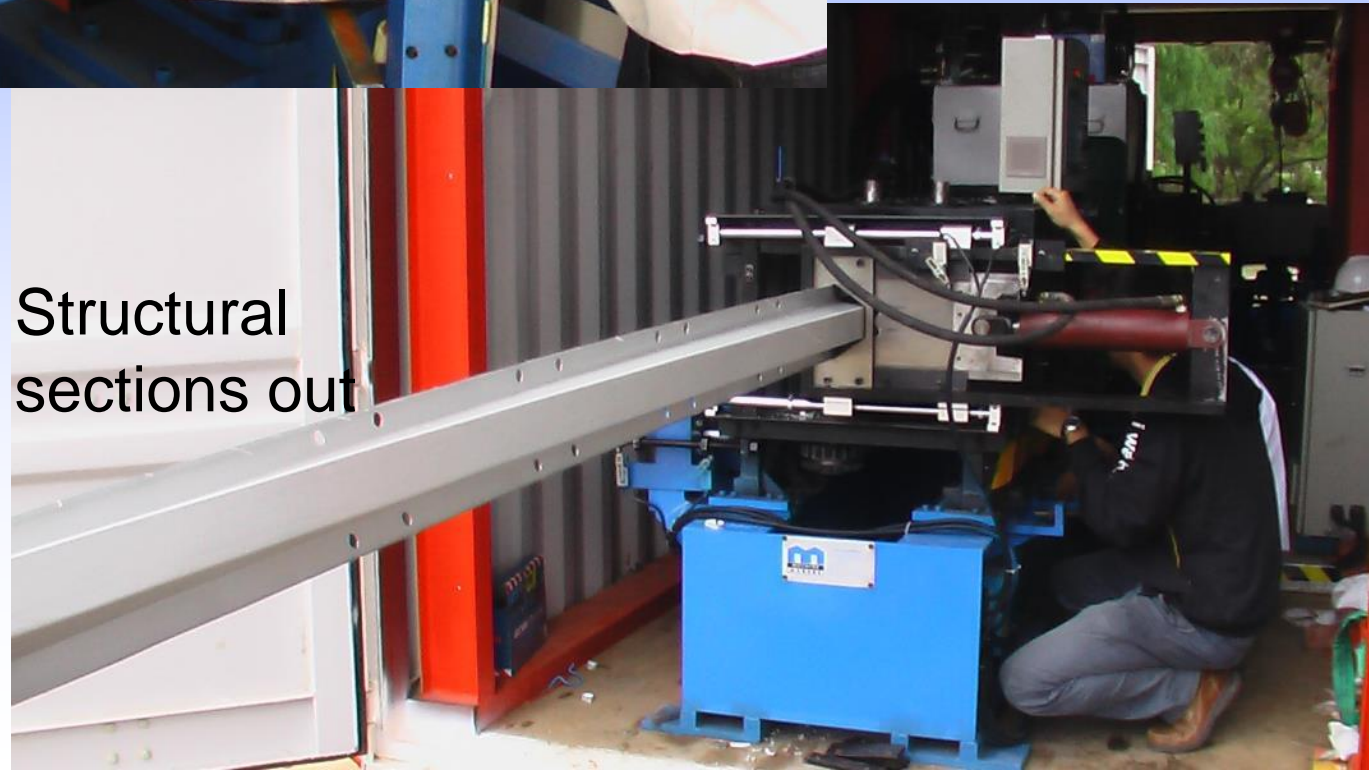
# On site containerised section rolling machine



Coils of sheet  
steel in....



Structural  
sections out





















31 March  
2009





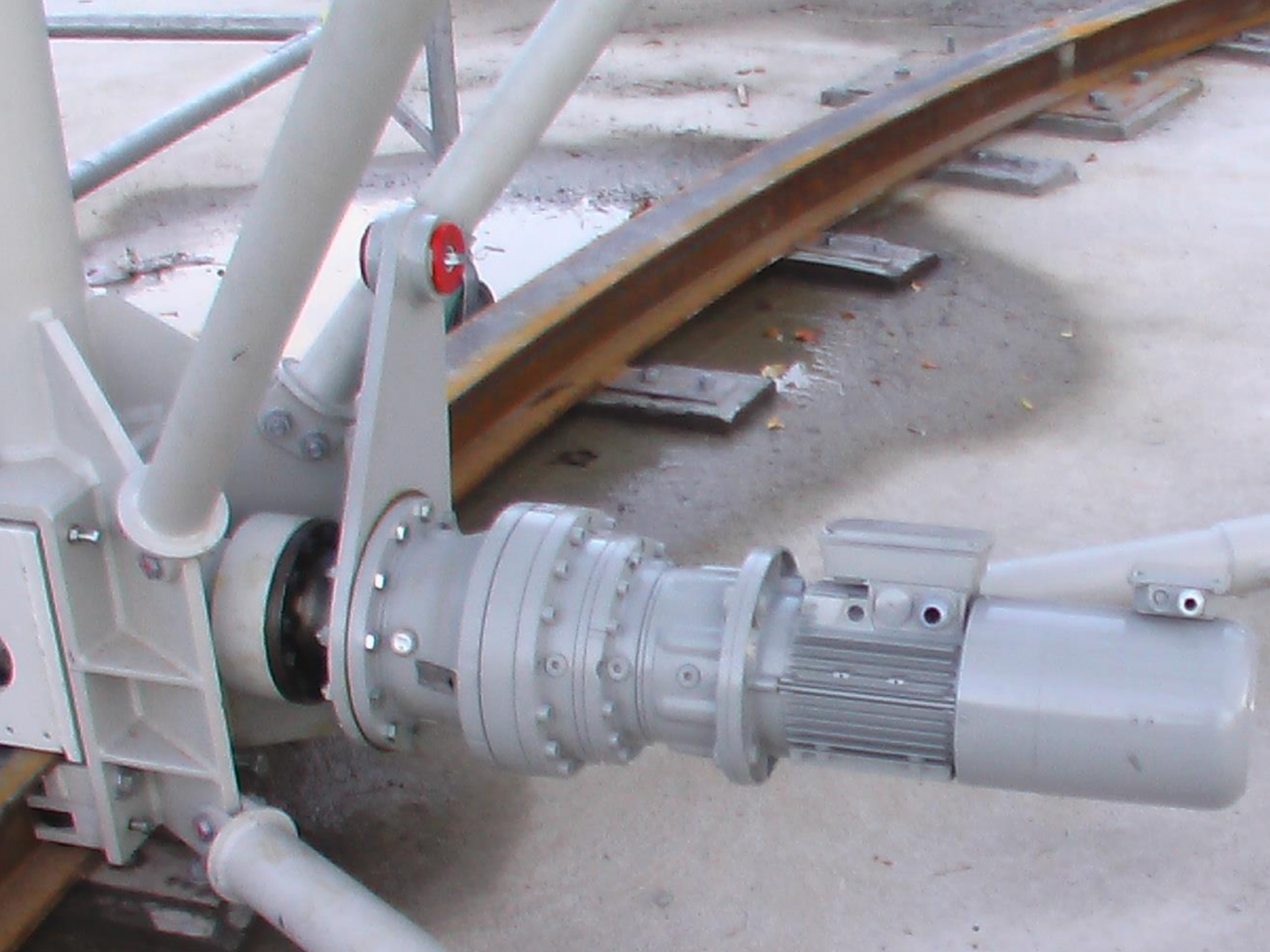


























380 identical mirrors







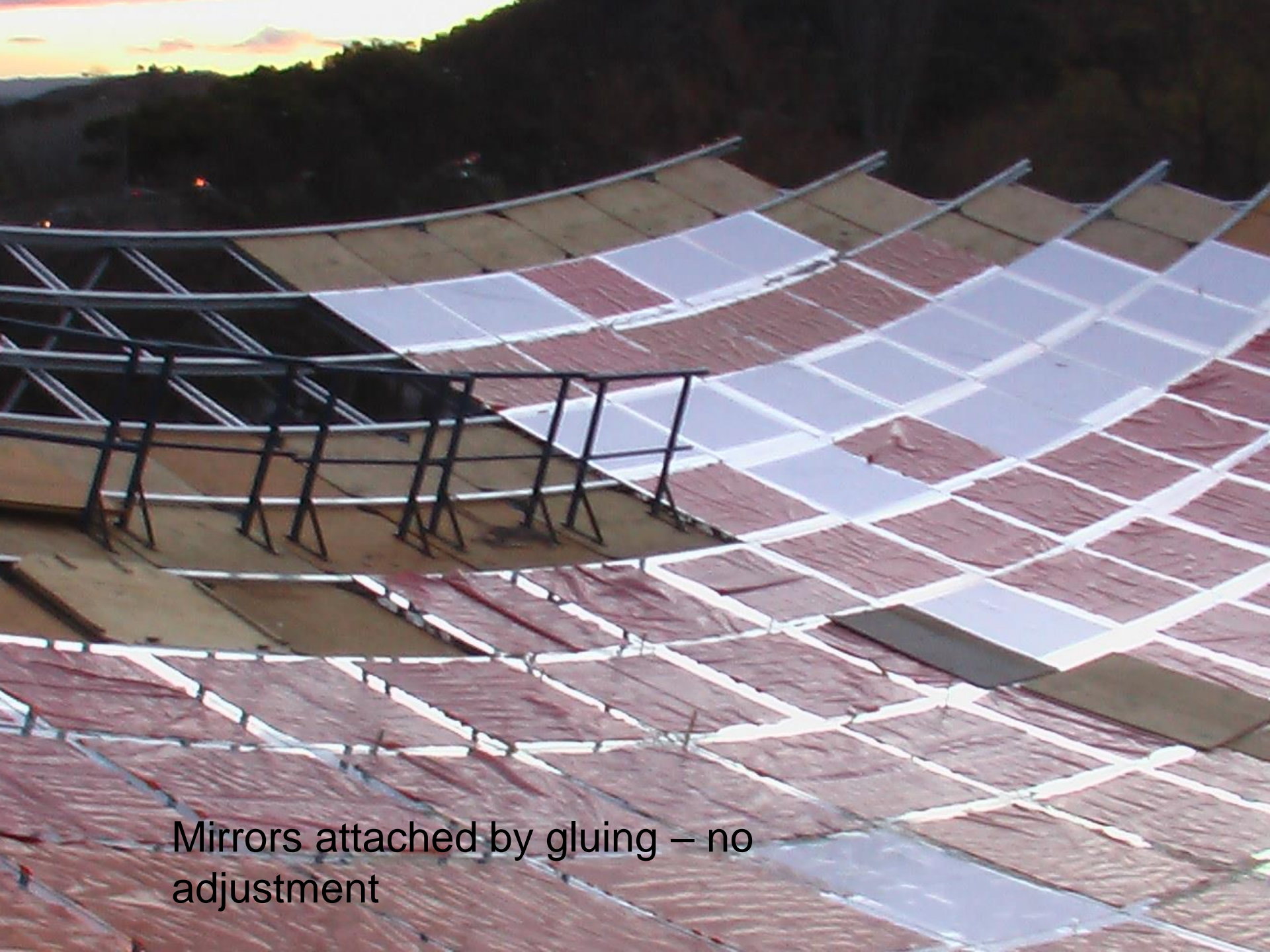












Mirrors attached by gluing – no adjustment















**First sun 29 June 2009**









Only 80m<sup>2</sup> of mirrors  
were deployed

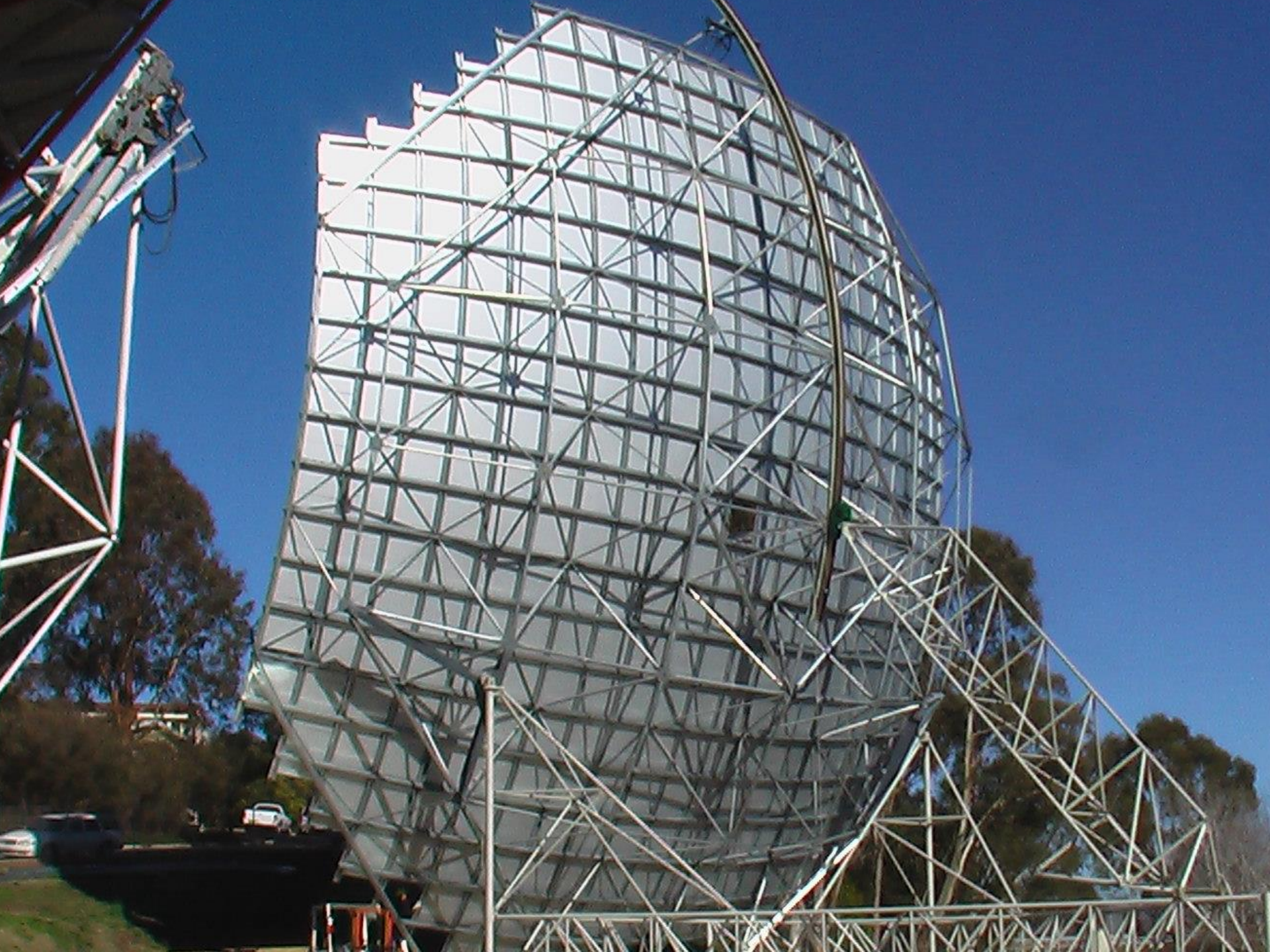






Whoops .....

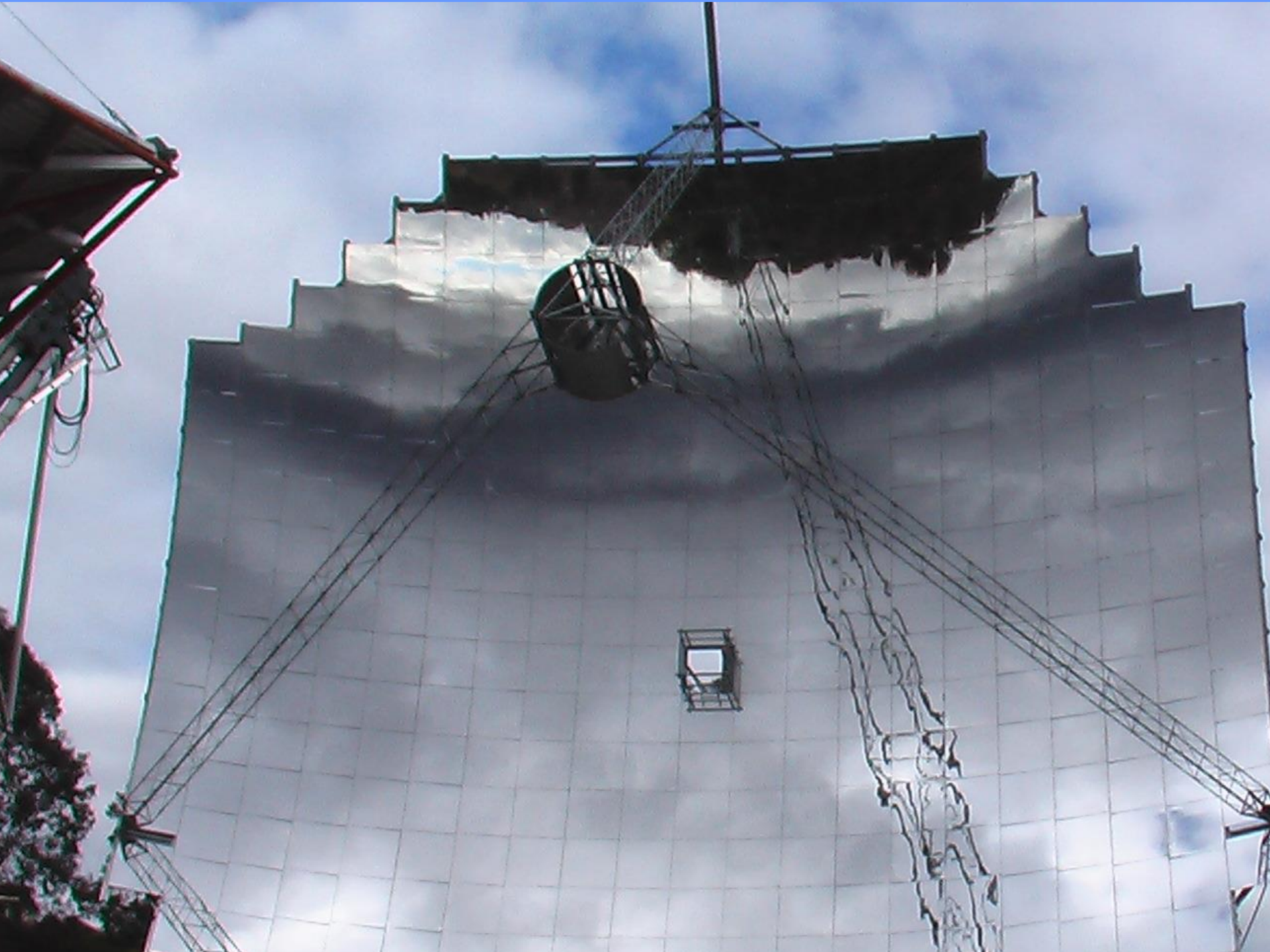








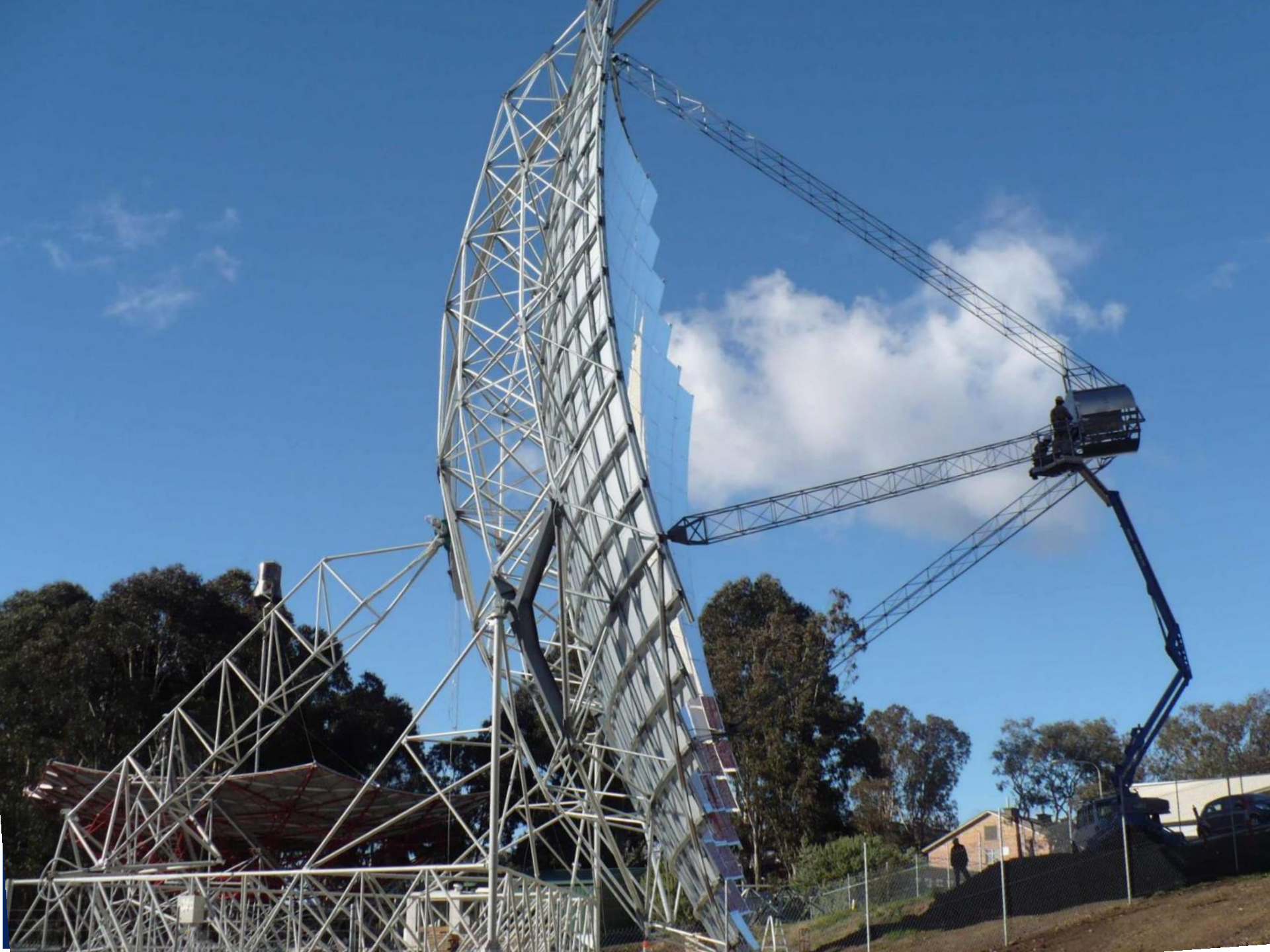












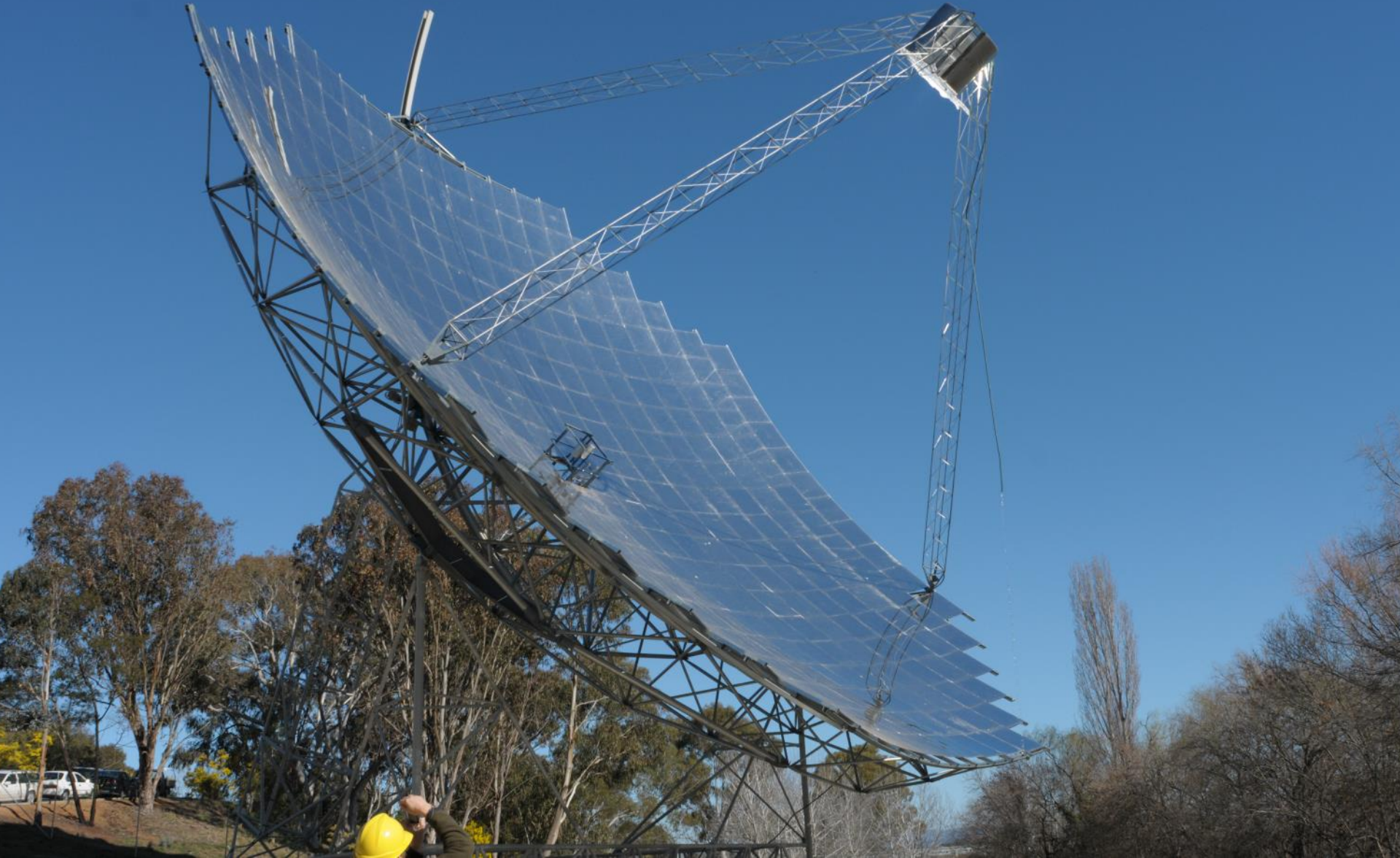




Images of passing clouds are  
encouraging...



# First operation with all mirrors















Whoops 2.....

Image trajec





Whoops 3.....










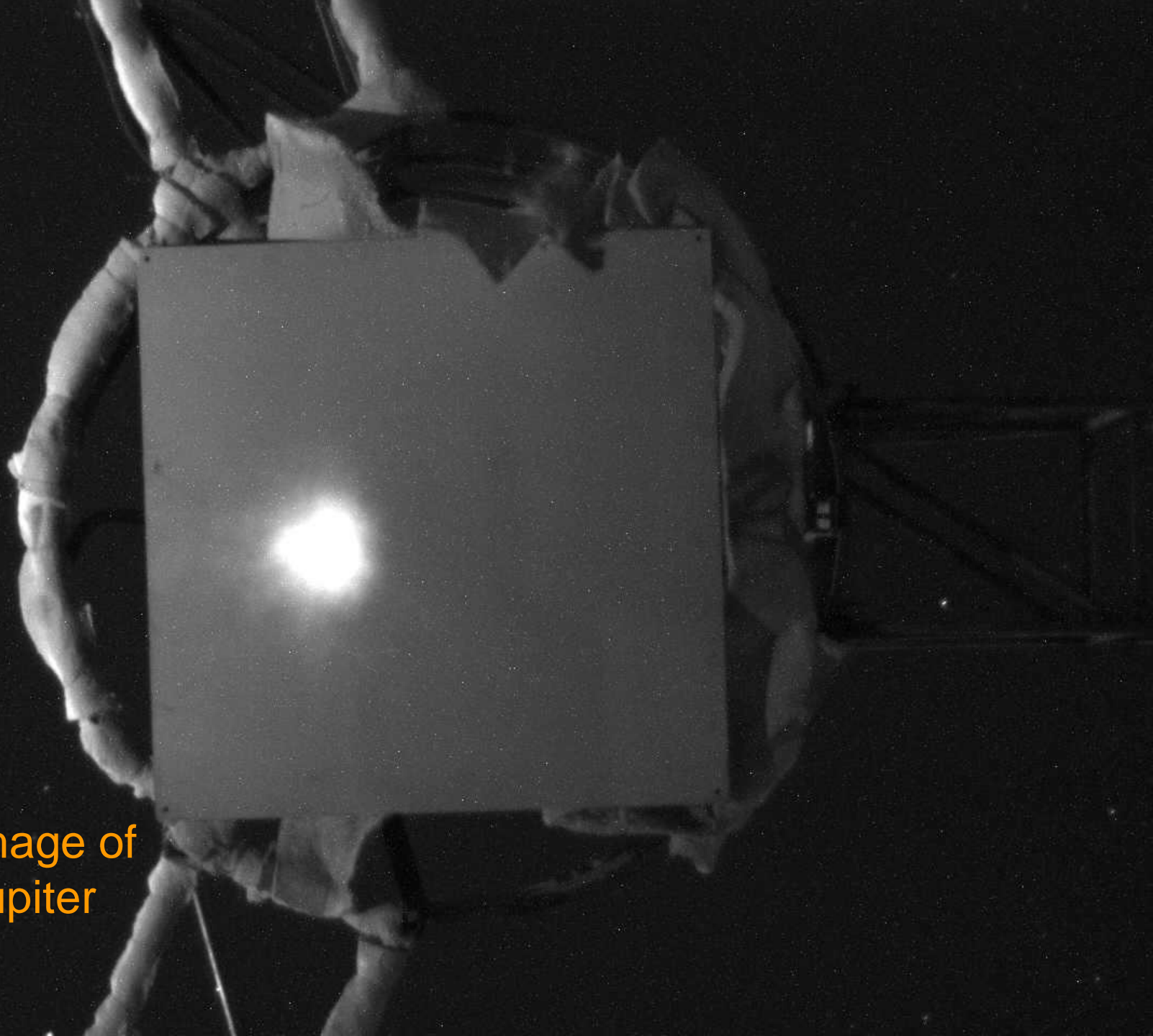


A night sky photograph. On the left, a large, faint, diamond-shaped constellation is visible, possibly the constellation of the Great Square. A bright star is visible on the right side of the image. The text "Lets try astronomy" is overlaid on the right side of the image.

Lets try  
astronomy



Image of  
Jupiter



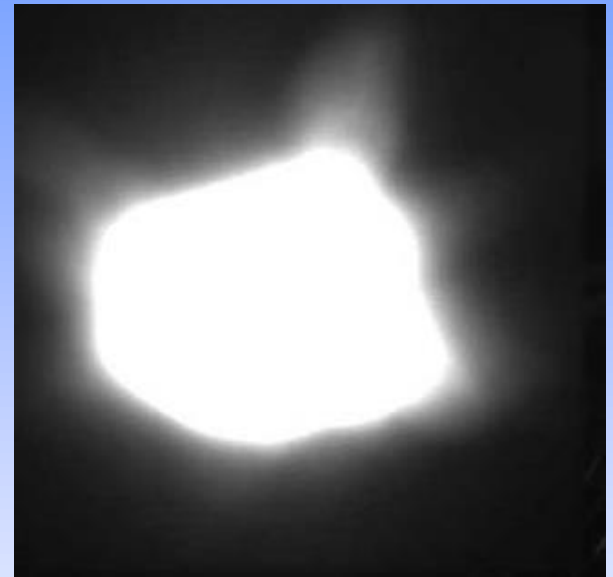




Jupiter



Full Moon

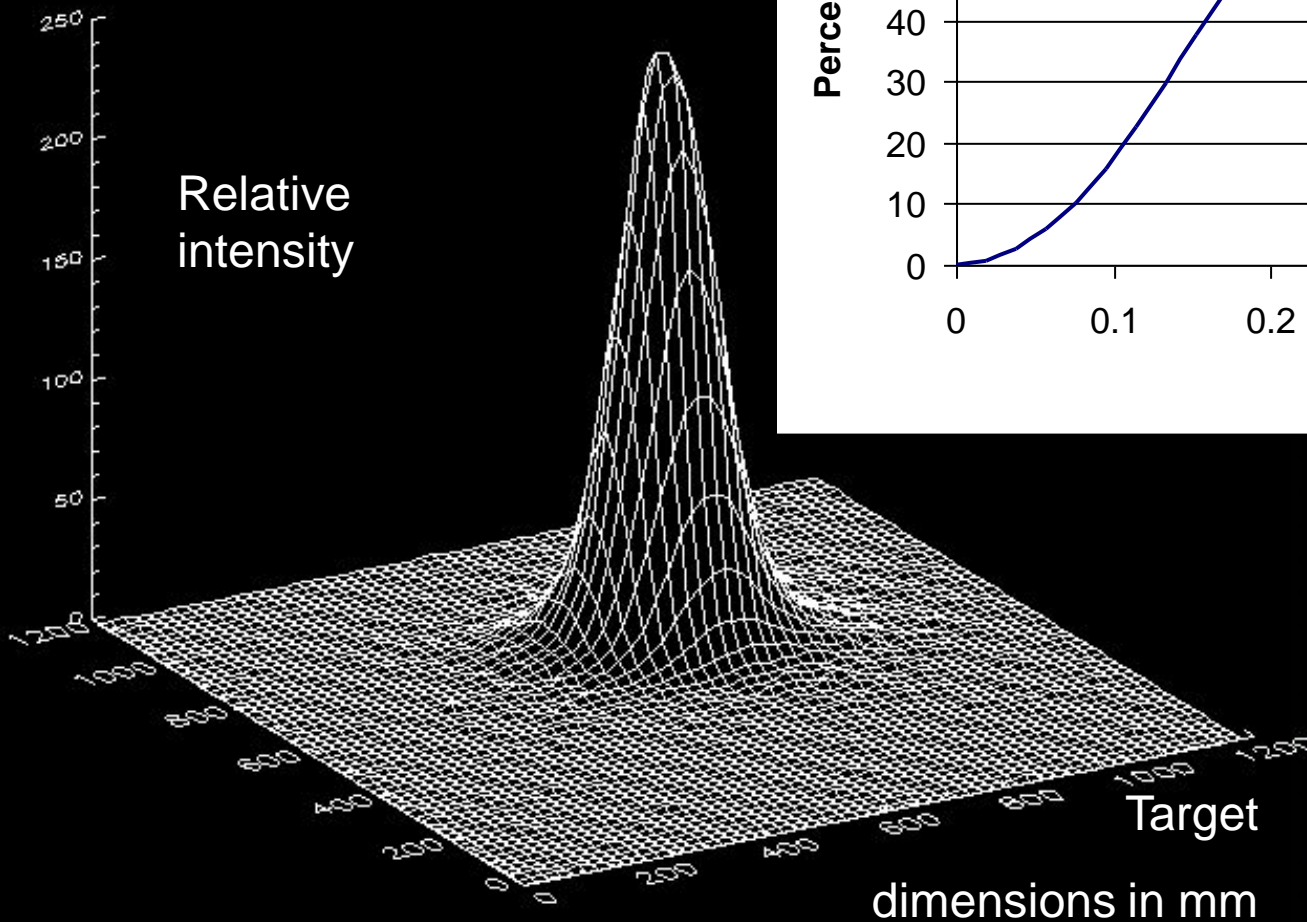
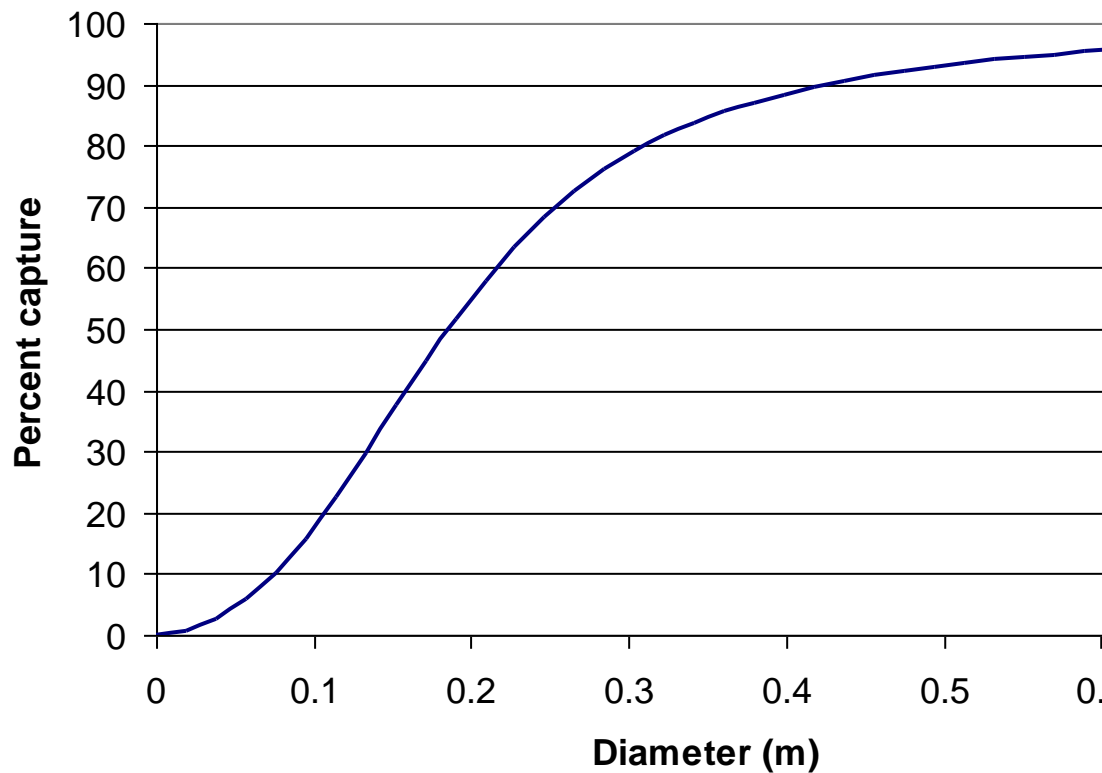


Full Moon  
over exposed



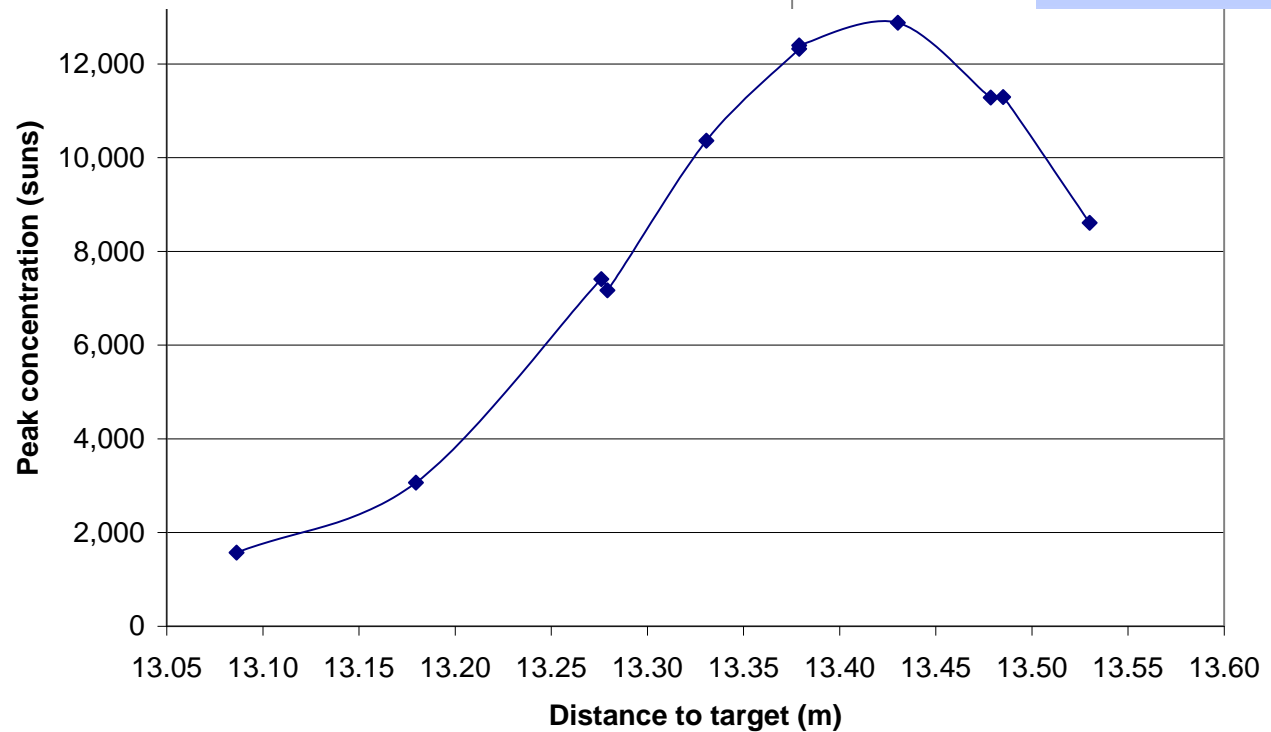
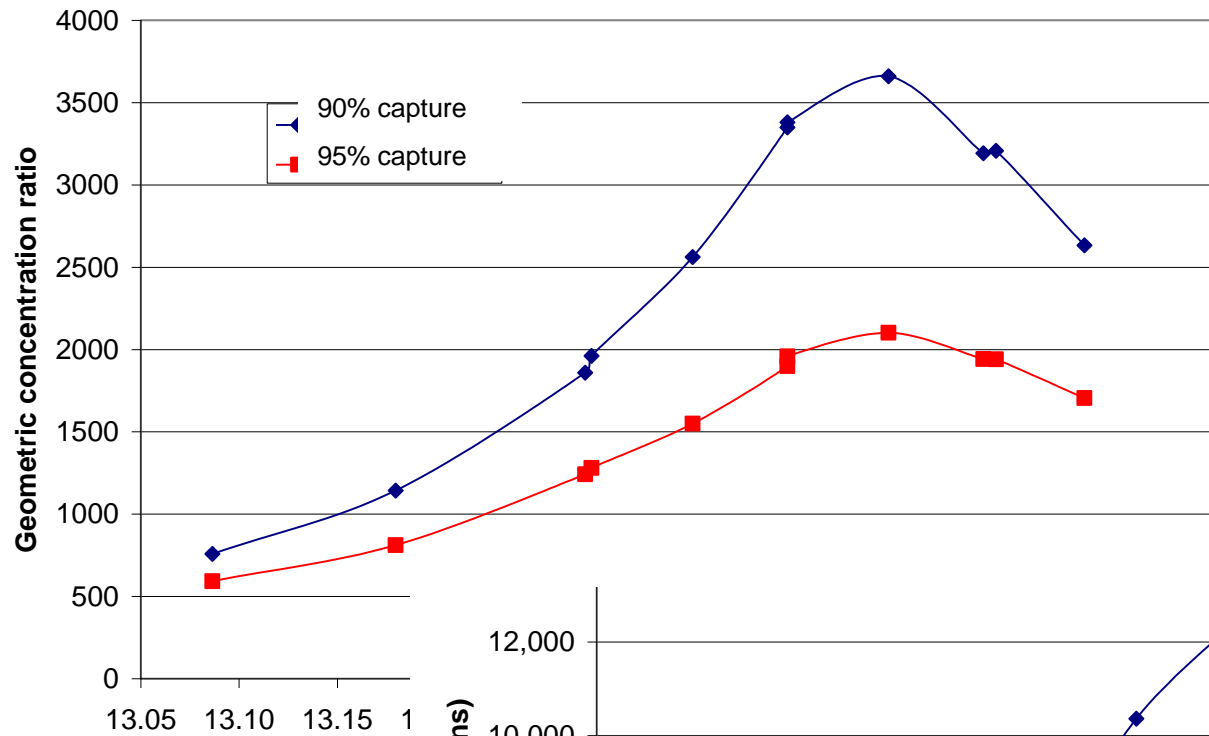
# How good is it really?

SG4 Full moon 4 Sep 2009 - image 35





# SG4 Full moon 4 Sep 2009



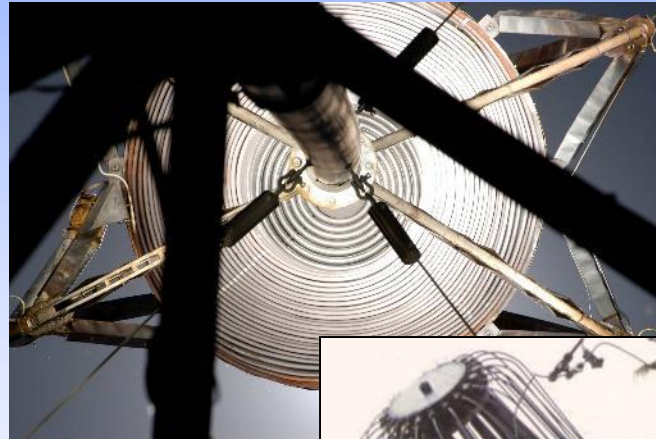


**Dish = Dish Stirling ?**  
**No!!!,**



**Dish =**

- Dish Steam
- Dish Chemical
- Dish Brayton
- Dish PV
- and Dish Stirling ☺





# Conclusions

- **System design for manufacture of a Gen II Big Dish successfully completed**
- **The design is ready for large scale commercial role out**
- **Identical non adjustable mirrors still allow excellent optical performance**
- **The design is suitable for a driving a range of conversion processes including those needing high levels of concentration**



# The new dish was designed and built 95% in house - Many thanks to

## ANU:

- Justin Bishop
- Greg Burgess
- Jeff Cumpston
- Rebecca Dunn
- Daniel Foo
- John Garzoli
- Chris Griffin
- Wie Shuen Joe
- Ashley Kearton
- Michael Kingsland
- Keith Lovegrove
- David McCready
- Geoff Major

- Jessica Preston
- John Pye
- Paul Scott
- Bethany Thompson
- Kevin Yeh
- Jose Zapata

## Wizard Power:

- Nick Binos
- Rob Brunswick
- Joe Coventry
- Mark Gledhill





# Acknowledgements

**Support from the Australian federal government under the “Renewable Energy Initiative” and the “Advanced Energy Storage Program” is gratefully acknowledged**