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Dr Surridge was awarded her PhD in 2007 and during 2007-2009 she was a postdoctoral Fellow of the Claude Leon Foundation. An academic career was paralleled by establishing a consulting company specialising in environmental analyses, environmental impact assessments (EIA's), laboratory setup and establishment and consulting to, among others, large energy, environmental consulting and metal industries in South Africa.

From November 2011 to present, Dr Surridge was engaged as Centre Manager for the Renewable Energy Centre of Research and Development (RECORD) at the South African National Energy Development Institute (SANEDI). This centre is mandated, through the Government Act (National Energy Act 2008, no. 34) that established SANEDI, to coordinate renewable energy research and development in South Africa. Finally, Dr Surridge is also currently serving on the council of the South African Solar Energy Association (SASEA).