Solar energy jerusalem

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A collaborative project between BrightSource Energy, General Electric (GE), and NOY Infrastructure & Energy Investment Fund aims to build the world's fifth largest solar thermal power station (the Megalim) in Israel's Negev desert. The centerpiece of the project will be the Ashalim tower, the world's tallest solar tower, which will soar 820 feet into the desert sky. Encircling the main tower will be 50,000 mirrors, called heliostats, to focus the sun's rays. The Israeli Ministry of Finance approved a 4 billion NIS funding agreement in July 2015 to move the Ashalim solar field project forward. The entire Megalim complex is expected to be operational by mid-2018.

Passive Solar Space Heating

Photovoltaic Rural Lighting

At the time of writing (1997) there is no manufacturing industry for photovoltaic (PV) cells in Israel. This fact, coupled with the still relatively high cost of PV cells, has resulted in a relative dearth of PV demonstration projects despite the ideal climatic conditions the country offers for this technology. One sector does exist, however, in which there has been a relatively high penetration of PV into the public perception and this is at rural bus stops. A number of private entrepreneurs import the relevant components and market (usually to local authorities) lighting units which comprise a PV panel, a storage battery, a low-power lamp and control electronics for protecting the battery. In this manner, solar power is used for lighting these bus stops during night hours.

INNOVATIVE SOLAR DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS

With the onset of the energy crisis of 1974 a number of innovative solar demonstration projects were undertaken by Israeli industry and the government. The two most prominent in the private sector were an electricity- generating solar pond at the Dead Sea and a solar industrial process heat system in the north-west Negev. In addition, the government established a large solar test- demonstration facility in the Negev.

Electric Power from Saline Solar Ponds

Industrial Process Steam from Parabolic- Trough Solar Collectors

The Ben-Gurion National Solar Energy Center (BGNSEC)

Solar research and development is being carried out at a number of universities and research institutes throughout the country.

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The Negev Solar Radiation Survey was established by the Ministry of National Infrastructure in the 1980s in cooperation with Ben-Gurion University's BGNSEC and the Meteorological Service. The Survey documents solar radiation (and other pertinent meteorological parameters) from approximately 10 sites in the Negev, in order to identify appropriate locations for solar power stations of the future and provide a data base for their efficient design.

Photovoltaics, although having little if any industrial backing in Israel at present, does enjoy a modest degree of government support because this technology may form the basis of some of the power stations of the future. Innovative methods for producing silicon solar cells are being investigated at the Jerusalem College of Technology (high-efficiency, single crystal cells) and at Tel Aviv University (amorphous silicon thin layers). New thin-film materials are being investigated for potential PV use at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev (C60), at the Technion Israel Institute of Technology (CdTe) and at the Weizmann Institute of Science (WSe2).

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