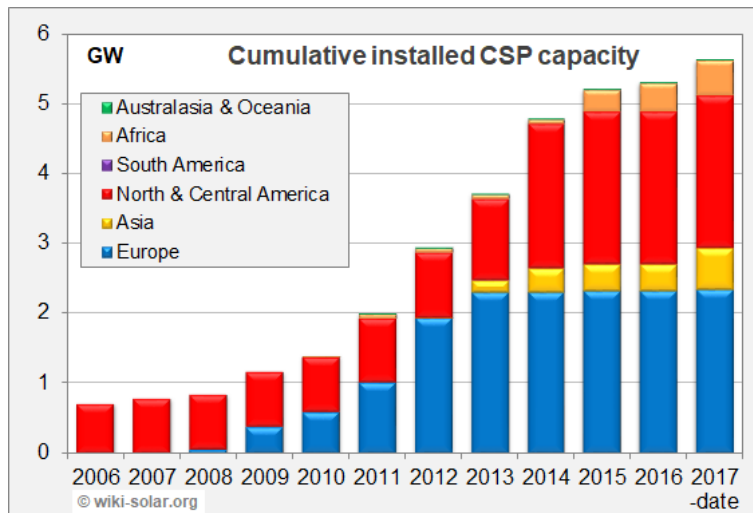


Wiki-Solar embraces all utility-scale solar; now includes CSP

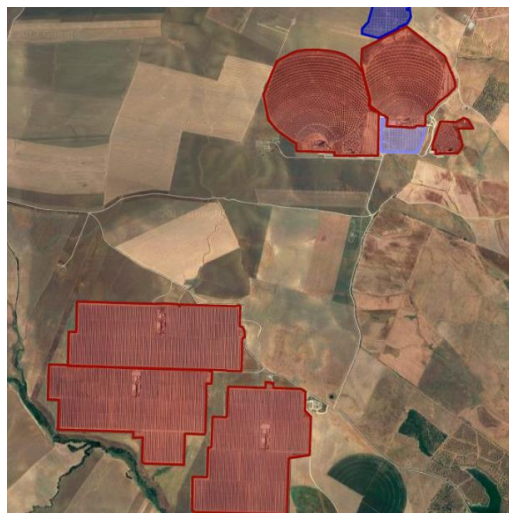
The expert on global utility-scale solar, Wiki-Solar, has now added concentrated solar generators to its database. It used to show only photovoltaic projects. Concentrated solar power (CSP) represents a small proportion of the total – under 6-GW, compared to 125-GW of PV – but Wiki-Solar says many observers want to see the overall utility-scale solar sector.

CSP was the leading form of large-scale solar generation with California’s SEGS projects in in the late 1980’s and early 90’s, and it retained a significant share of the total until the last decade. “Rapid cost reductions have fuelled a continuing boom for photovoltaics”, says Wiki-Solar founder Philip Wolfe, “and CSP reached a plateau, though some 9-GW of projects remain in development”.



Annual utility-scale concentrated solar installations by continent

The early geographic distribution was similar to that for PV, led by North America and Europe, with Asia joining later. More recently, however, Africa has taken a significant position in CSP, with installations in South Africa, Morocco, Algeria and Egypt.

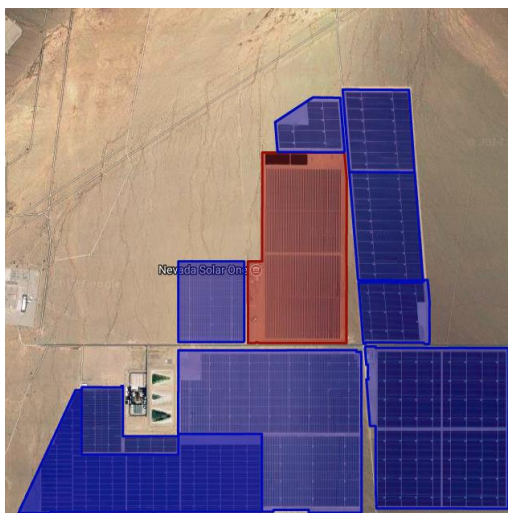


Two solar power tower projects and three parabolic trough plants West of Seville



Continued/-

Spain leads the list of top countries for CSP, just ahead of the USA, and has 36 plants mainly around Seville, Badajoz and Ciudad Real.



Nevada Solar One parabolic trough CSP project surrounded by PV plants in the southern Eldorado Valley

The majority of installed CSP projects use parabolic troughs to concentrate sunlight onto tubes which carry the heat transfer fluid. The other common technology is so-called ‘power towers’ where arrays of mirrors focus the sunlight onto boilers mounted on a tower.

TEXT ENDS

Notes for editors:

- [1] This release on the UK utility-scale solar market is available here:
http://wiki-solar.org/library/public/171211_Wiki-Solar_adds_CSP_to_utility-solar_database.pdf
- [2] The latest figures on deployment of utility-scale photovoltaic power stations is available here:
http://wiki-solar.org/library/public/170828_Utility-solar_another_huge_half-year.pdf
- [3] A full-scale version of the map of CSP projects West of Seville is shown here:
http://wiki-solar.org/map/sites/index.html?San%3C3%BACar_la_Mayor?0?u-uW?14?37.429?-6.26?
and the map of the southern Eldorada Valley is here:
http://www.wiki-solar.org/map/sites/index.html?Southern_Eldorado_Valley?0?n-nU?14?35.798?-114.98?
- [4] Following an open consultation, Wiki-Solar defines ‘utility-scale solar’ as 4 MW_{AC} and above; see:
<http://wiki-solar.org/data/glossary/utility-scale.html>. A capacity rating of 4 MW_{AC} equates roughly to the consumption of 1,500 households in Europe.
- [5] ‘Solar Photovoltaic Projects in the mainstream power market’ was [published](#) in 2012.
- [6] Wiki-Solar’s database covers some 7,000 utility-scale solar projects, of which about 5,000 are operational, and the remainder are under construction or development. The above figures are based solely on operational capacity; projects under development are excluded until they have been commissioned.

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