



**PRESS RELEASE**  
**(Embargoed until 13:30 GMT)**

**ACCIONA puts the biggest solar thermal electric power plant built in the world in the last 16 years into service in the USA**

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- Located in the Nevada desert, the 64 MW plant, it represents an investment of \$250 million
- It will produce 134 million kilowatt hours a year, enough power to supply 15,000 US households.
- Covering 1.3 million sq. metres, the plant boasts 76 kilometres of parabolic cylinder concentrators and over 219,000 mirrors.

*7 June 2007*

**ACCIONA Energy has connected its “Nevada Solar One” solar thermal plant in the State of Nevada (USA). Its 64 MW capacity make it the largest solar plant to be built in the world in the last 16 years. Close to \$250 million were invested in the facility, which took 16 months to be built and will produce 134 million kilowatt hours a year. This is Acciona’s first venture into solar thermal energy, a renewable technology in which the company is currently developing several significant projects.**

The Nevada plant has already supplied its first test kilowatts to the grid and expects to begin commercial operations within a week. Located in Boulder City, 40 kilometres southwest of Las Vegas, the plant covers a total of 1.3 million square metres.

It has 76 kilometres of parabolic cylinder concentrators with almost 219,000 mirrors that concentrate the sun’s rays onto over 18,000 receiver tubes located on their focal line. A fluid that heats up to 400 °C flows through these pipes and is used to produce steam and drive a conventional turbine connected to a generator to produce electricity.

The energy generated by the plant will be sent to the grid via a power line that passes close to the facility and will be purchased by the utilities Nevada Power Company and Sierra Pacific Power under a 20-year power purchase agreement. Both companies will purchase the energy to comply with Nevada State requirements for the production of electric power from renewables



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-20% of the electricity consumption from these sources in 2013, with 5% exclusively from solar energy-.

The Nevada plant, which uses proprietary solar tracking technology, will produce the largest amount of clean energy to coincide with peak demand hours. The plant will produce enough electricity to supply 15,000 US households.

**1.5 million work hours**

An average of 400 people worked in the construction of the Nevada Solar One plant with peak employment of up to 850, totalling 1.5 million work hours. The plant was constructed in 16 months, a very positive figure if one takes into account that this is the first large-scale solar thermal plant to be built in many years.

Solar thermal plants experienced significant development in the United States between 1985 and 1991. A total of nine plants were installed —all in California’s Mohave desert— with a total capacity of 354 MW. The two largest —80 MW each— were built in 1990 and 1991. Due to several incidents —issues in the company that owned them, the elimination of incentives, the liberalisation of California’s energy market and others— the construction of new plants of this type ceased despite the existing energy potential.

The outlook for solar thermal energy has changed significantly thanks to a push given to this type of clean energy generation in four states in the southwest —California, Nevada, Arizona and New Mexico— which receive the highest levels of solar radiation in the country.

**New developments**

ACCIONA Energy has additional solar thermal projects in the United States and also in Spain, where it will make an effort to comply with the goals of the Renewable Energy Plan regarding this fixed technology.



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**Corporate information**

*ACCIONA Energy is the worldwide leader in the renewable energy sector, involved in eight clean technologies. In wind power, the company has installed 4,500 MW in 169 wind farms located in 10 countries, of which it owns 3,317 MW. It has three biomass plants and 59 MW in small hydro power plants. In the field of solar energy, in addition to the Nevada solar thermal plant, it has installed 30 MW of photovoltaic power and 23 MW of thermal power. It manufactures 1,500 KW turbines using proprietary technology and produces approved-quality biodiesel from first-use vegetable oils and bioethanol from wine alcohol. It belongs to the ACCIONA Group, one of the main Spanish and international corporations working in the development and management of infrastructures, services and renewable energies. In 2006, ACCIONA's turnover was 6,272 million euros (up 29.3% over the previous year), with an EBITDA of 960 million euros (up 29.2%) and a net attributable result of 1,370 million euros (up 322,8%). ACCIONA is listed on the IBEX-35 (ANA.MC) with a market capitalization of over 12,000 million euros.*