



# **SOLAR THERMAL ENERGY TECHNOLOGIES**

## **An Overview of the Technology and a Description of Some Activities in the DoD**

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Albuquerque, NM



### **Presentation Outline**

1. Brief overview of Sandia National Labs
2. Part I - Overview of the solar thermal technologies
3. Part II - A review of some interesting R&D efforts
4. Part III - A review of applications within DOD
5. Summary





## A Little Background on Sandia

- Largest DOE National Lab, 8000 staff, \$1.4B
- Multi-program lab with defense emphasis
- Work in renewable energy for 25 years — longer than any other lab
- DOD RE team contains seven people, with nearly 200 years of collective experience
- Sandia is a DOE FEMP team laboratory with service to DOD as one of the priorities



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## PART I OVERVIEW OF SOLAR THERMAL TECHNOLOGIES



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## Fundamental Concepts of Solar Thermal Technology

### Two Basic Types of Solar Systems

CONCENTRATOR      FLAT PLATE

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graph LR
    Sunlight --> Heat[CONVERTED TO HEAT]
    Heat --> DirectUse[DIRECT USE]
    Heat --> MechMotion[CONVERTED TO MECHANICAL MOTION TO GENERATE ELECTRICITY]
    
```

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## Two of the Most Popular Types of Solar Water Heaters

### Integral Collector Storage Solar System

Cold Water In      Hot Water Out

### Pumped Direct Solar System

Collector Sensor  
Freeze Sensor      Pump      Tank sensor

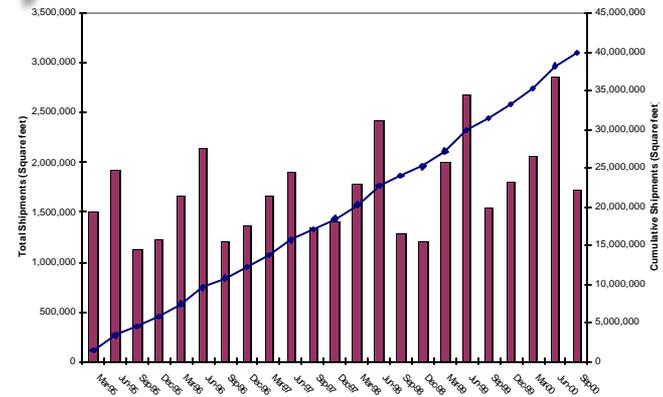
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## Fielded Solar Hot Water and Pool Systems



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## Shipments of US-Manufactured Unglazed Collectors by Quarter



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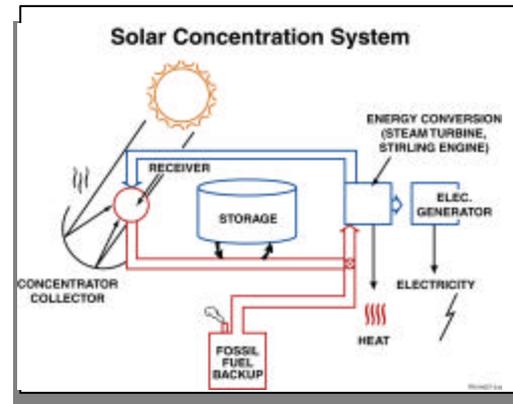
## Solar Hot Water and Solar Pool Cost Break-Even Points

- Solar hot water systems begin to compete with natural gas at a cost of about \$7/MMBTU; with electricity at about \$0.03/kWH
- Solar pool systems begin to compete with natural gas at a cost of about \$4/MMBTU



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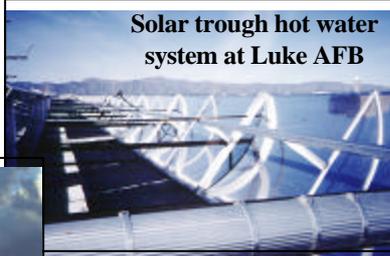
## Fundamental concepts of Concentrating Solar Power (CSP)



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## Concentrating Solar Systems

Solar trough hot water system at Luke AFB



Dish/Stirling system at Ft. Huachuca



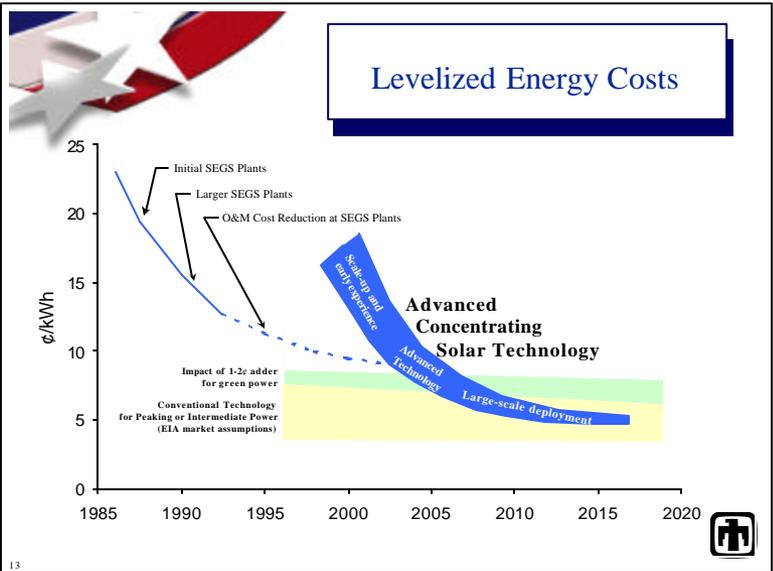
## Solar Trough Electric Generating Plant in California

SEGS Trough Power Plant



Trough Collectors





**PART II**

**SOME SOLAR THERMAL**

**R&D PROJECTS AT SANDIA**

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## A New Solar Hot Water Heating Technology Development

- Cooperative Research and development with SRP, a major Arizona utility, to develop, a unique solar water heating system for new homes
- All passive design, all stainless steel construction integrates into roof, tank under collector, resembles skylight
- Cost goal of \$1500 to homeowner is about 1/2 cost of traditional systems
- Field testing in Phoenix and Ft. Huachuca

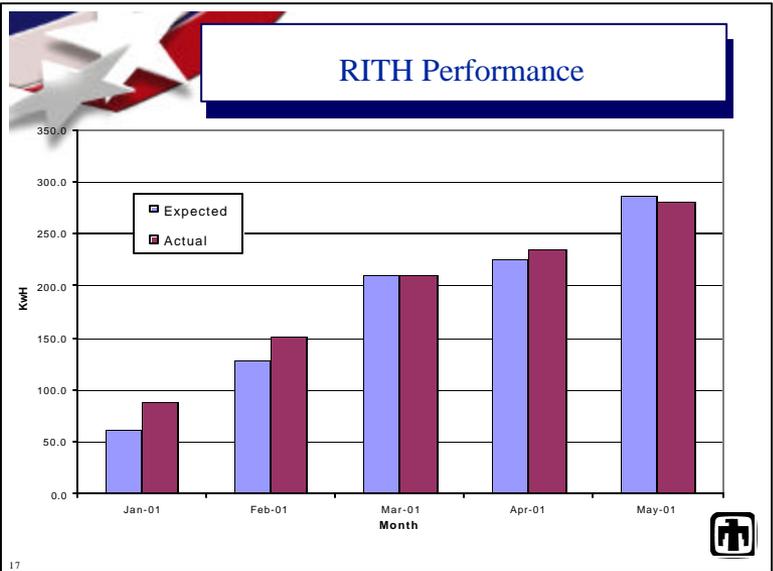


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## RITH Installation in Phoenix



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### Solar Attic Hot Water Project at Ft. Huachuca

Experimental project to scavenge heat from attic to heat water

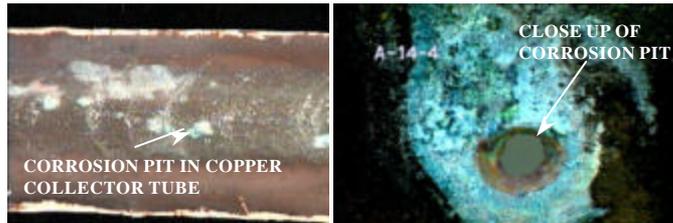
**STANDARD CORPS of ENGINEER BARRACKS ROOF**

- Insulation
- Black Metal Barracks Roof
- Solar heated space



## Copper Corrosion in Solar Hot Water Systems is a Continuing Problem

Corrosion analysis has provided an understanding of the risks of refurbishing solar thermal systems



We understand more about the corrosion process and know more about how to prevent it. But there is still a long way to go



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## Sandia Designed Low-Cost BTU Meter for Solar Thermal Applications

- Sandia designed BTU meter allows solar hot water systems to be monitored easily and cost effectively.
- The meter can be installed without cutting any pipes and is fully portable
- Under test in various DOD facilities; available to all
- Low cost; works with fixed and variable flow systems.



Sandia designed non-invasive BTU Meter



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## Simplified Analysis Tool for DOD

### SIMPLIFIED ANALYSIS FOR SOLAR HOT WATER SYSTEMS IN DOD

Prepared by: Dave Menicucci, Sandia National Labs, a DOE/FEMP Laboratory

#### Input Descriptions:

Solar cost:  
Average Daily Solar Radiation  
Solar conversion efficiency  
Typical solar size:  
Annual O&M cost  
Boiler efficiency:  
Cost of displaced energy:  
System life for economic analysis:  
Discount rate for economic analysis

#### User Inputs:

\$50.00 per sq. ft.  
6.5 kWh/sq. met/day  
50 %  
4000 sq. ft.  
\$0.10 per sq. ft.  
60 %  
\$8.00 Per MMBTU  
25 years  
5 %

#### Suggested Default Values

\$50; \$45 large system; \$75 small system  
Location dependent : Phoenix=6.5, Boston=4.6  
50%  
Application dependent: residential = 80 sq ft  
65%; 80% for commercial, 50% for residential  
\$8.00  
25  
5%

#### Analysis:

Annual solar production (energy saved): 1503.2 MMBTU  
Value of solar energy production: \$20,042.88  
Annual cost of O&M \$400.00  
Net annual energy savings: \$19,642.88  
Solar system cost: \$200,000.00  
Simple payback 10.2 years  
Saving to Investment Ratio 1.4

#### Computed Values



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## APPLYING MOBILE POWER CENTER



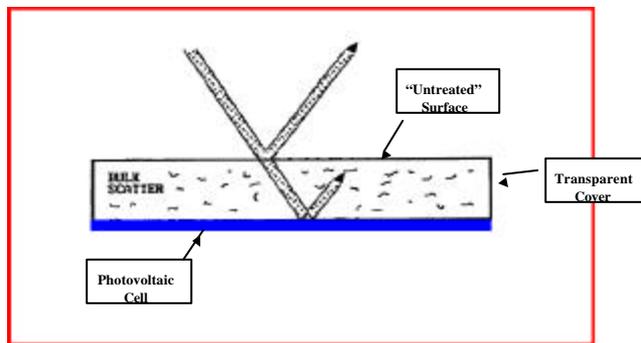
3.4Kw Mobile Photovoltaic Array, part of the Mobile Power Center created for USMC and tested at 29 Palms (was damaged by tornado)



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## SURFACE GLINT INCREASES LOCATIONAL SIGNATURE

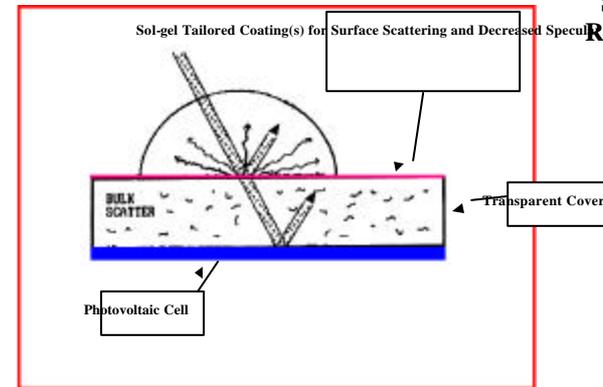
Glint caused by: High Specular Reflectance at Surface



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## REDUCED SURFACE GLINT USING SOL-GEL TAILORED COATINGS

Reduce Glint by: Increasing Surface Scatter and Decreasing  
Specular Reflectance



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**PART III**  
**SOLAR APPLICATIONS WITH DOD**



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**How Sandia Helps DOD to Apply  
Renewable Energy Technologies**

- Direct technical assistance on projects for all branches of military
- Project management— complete oversight of renewable energy projects for USMC and Pentagon
- Consulting and training for military personnel
- Applied Research & Development and Test & Evaluation
- Special projects for DOD Tri-Service Renewable Energy Committee (TREC)
- Support provided by DOE/FEMP and DOD/TREC



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## What Makes a Good Potential Renewable Energy Project on a Base?

- Good resource (i.e., solar, wind, geothermal, etc)
- Applicable loads (e.g., loads that match solar production profiles)
- Competing fuel costs that are high or could be high in the near term.
- Applicable infrastructure on the military facility and above
  - Command interest in renewables
  - Facilities personnel buy-in; willingness to invest
  - Enthusiastic on-site champion (an energy manager)
  - HQ support



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## Sandia Has Identified Potential DOD Renewable Applications

- DOD wants to know what potential renewable projects exist on their facilities
- MIPR from DOD/TREC to Sandia
  - Agreed to list of sites to visit, format of database, etc
- Began to develop the database in summer of 1998
- Have surveyed 29 bases so far, over 55 potential projects identified
- Currently preparing 1391s for selected projects
- Sandia developing appropriate projects for ESPC



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## List of Potential DOD Renewable Projects/Sample of Complete List

NAME OF FACILITY	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	POSSIBLE NEXT STEPS	CURRENT STATUS	CHANCE OF SUCCESS (See Note)
MCB 29 Palms (USMC)	Refurbish six solar water heating systems on barracks	Refurbish one system as a pilot; others to be refurbished by ESPC or USMC	Pilot project for one system proposed to DOE/FEMP	80%
MCB 29 Palms (USMC)	Install new solar system to heat training tank	Study economic potential of installing solar system to heat tank	Unknown	50%
MCB 29 Palms (USMC)	Install PV systems in remote firing ranges to power diesel generators	Obtain more info with detailed field survey; Study economic potential of PV in remote development program	Unknown	75%
MCB 29 Palms (USMC)	Install ground source heat pump(s) for heating/cooling space in buildings	Study soil conditions to determine feasibility of ground source heat pumps; study economics; develop proposal	Unknown	70%
MLB Barstow (USMC)	Salvage 3-6 existing solar panels from pool; use them to heat water for gym	Assess gym loads, check out panel quality (corrosion analysis); study economics; develop proposal	Unknown	70%
MLB Barstow (USMC)	Install PV lighting system at remote fire training facility	Refine economic analysis; develop proposal for funding the project	Unknown	85%
MCB Quantico (USMC)	Refurbish solar collector system in bld 3255	Verify loads in bld, verify collector condition; refine economics; develop proposal for funding	Unknown	70%
MCB Quantico (USMC)	Install PV in remote areas: small power, composting toilets, cathodic protection	Obtain more info with detailed field survey; Study economics; develop proposal	Unknown	50%
MCB Quantico (USMC)	Install <del>new</del> ground source heat pumps for space conditioning	Identify most large buildings that will undergo retrofit and study economics; develop proposal	Unknown	95%
MCAS Cherry Point (USMC)	Install solar hot water systems to displace electric or LP gas heaters	Identify specific building with LP gas/electric; water heating; refine economics; develop proposal (ESPC?)	Unknown	90%
MCAS Cherry Point (USMC)	Install solar hot water systems to displace electric hot water system in housing	Investigate economics of installation in Slocum Village where roof pitches are optimal for solar; refine economics and develop proposal (ESPC?)	Unknown	90%
MCB Camp Lejeune (USMC)	Refurbish nine solar hot water systems on barracks	Refurbish one system as a pilot; others to be refurbished by ESPC or USMC	Pilot project for one system proposed to DOE/FEMP	90%
MCB Camp Lejeune (USMC)	Install solar hot water systems to displace electric hot water system in housing	Investigate economics of installation in homes where roof pitches are optimal for solar; refine economics and develop proposal	Unknown	90%
NAP/EI Centro (USN)	Install unglazed solar system for heating two outdoor pools	Confirm 9 month operation of pool and current gas usage; refine economics; develop proposal	Unknown	60%
NAP/EI Centro (USN)	Install ground source heat pumps in small buildings	Identify suitable building (esp. one to be refurbished) for heat pump; refine economics; develop proposal for pilot project for facility (to justify future ESPC effort)	Unknown	80%



## 17 New Solar Hot Water Systems at Camp Wilson (MCB 29 Palms)



Mess hall system



Example of head application





## Solar Thermal System Refurbishment - Often a Cost-Effective Proposition

- Many non-operating solar thermal systems exist
- Many of these systems can be put back into service
- There are pitfalls —Sandia's four-step process can mitigate the risk:
  - 1) Visual inspection by trained professionals
  - 2) Fill system with water, pressurize, check for leaks, test for corrosion
  - 3) Develop a refurbishment plan and budget
  - 4) Implement the plan (write SOW, hire contractor, make repairs, and monitor performance)
- Sandia has written a refurbishment manual for USMC; FEMP publication



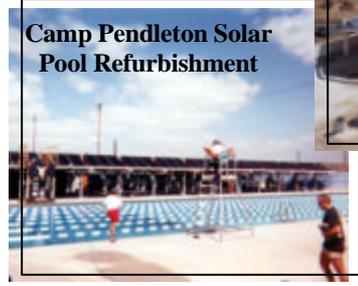
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## Solar Refurbishment Projects at Camp Pendleton and 29 Palms



### 29 Palms Solar Hot Water Refurbishment



### Camp Pendleton Solar Pool Refurbishment



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## Daylighting Technology: a Cost-Effective Lighting Method

- Commercially-available technology
- Cost competitive at or above about \$0.05/kWh
- Proven in military applications, especially Ft. Huachuca and MCAS Yuma
- Easily bundled with conventional ESPC and DSM projects
- Typically, facilities are concerned about leaks from the many roof penetrations, but this has not proven to be a problem



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## MCAS Yuma Warehouse Daylighting Project



Daylighting With Lights



Daylighting Without Lights



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## Summary of Displaced Annual Energy Resulting From FEMP/TREC DOD Projects

	<u>MWh</u>	<u>Value<sup>1</sup></u>
<i>Planned</i> Activities Completed FY01	913	\$119,000
<i>Planned</i> Activities In Progress FY01	6,651	\$865,000
<i>Unsolicited</i> Activities in Progress FY01	8,718	\$1,100,000
<i>Unsolicited</i> Activities Estimated in FY02	26,400	\$3,400,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>42,682</b>	<b>\$5,484,000</b>

Notes:

<sup>1</sup>Displaced electricity cost of about \$0.13/kWh



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## Funding is a Limitation for Renewable Projects within DOD

### Traditional Sources:

- **SERDP** — Gone
- **ECIP** — Zeroed for FY00, some \$ available FY01, FY02?
- **MILCON** — Available, but projects must be large and very cost-effective; 2-4 yr. process; limited funds need congressional approval; some solar projects may qualify

### Possible New Sources:

- **ESPC** — Project bundling is the key to make this successful
- **POLLUTION PREVENTION (P2)** — Naval Environmental Leadership Program in San Diego is funding renewables projects
- **SAVINGS REINVESTMENT** — Performed at base level; energy savings from fossil energy programs reinvested in renewable technologies



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## ESCOs Hold Much Promise for Major Funding but are Difficult to Bring to Fruition

*Here are some of the issues:*

- ESCOs want a high return on their investment, typically 0.5-3 year payback on projects
- ESCOs are unfamiliar with renewables projects and tend to dismiss them without proper analysis
- Renewable projects can be bundled with conventional ones to produce a favorable combination (Ft. Huachaca is proof that it can be done)
- Payoff to DOD is large if ESPC is developed for renewables because capital expense to the government is minimized; Sandia is developing opportunities



## Summary

- Solar technology is improving its performance, reducing its cost, and can compete in specific applications
- R&D is producing some new technologies that have potential for widespread application
- DOD offers new and unique opportunities for renewable technologies --FEMP and TREC are helping to identify and implement these applications

