

Solar thermal power tower and butterfly

How does a solar tower power plant work?

In a solar tower power plant, biaxially tracking mirrors, referred to as heliostats, direct the solar radiation onto a central receiver mounted on a tower. A heat transfer medium, usually molten salt or alternatively water / steam or air, absorbs the energy there and transports it to the thermal storage system and to the power plant circuit.

What is a Gemasolar Thermosolar plant?

Due to the success of Solar Two, a commercial power plant, called Solar Tres Power Tower, was built in Spain in 2011, later renamed Gemasolar Thermosolar Plant. Gemasolar's results paved the way for further plants of its type.

Why are solar thermal power plants important?

Since solar thermal power plants can feed their electricity into the power grid even after sunset, they are of particular value for an energy system based on renewable energy sources. Solar thermal power plants are of strategic importance in sunny countries to be able to phase out coal and gas power plants in the future.

What is a solar power tower?

Solar Power Towers (SPT), also denominated Central Receiver Systems (CRS), are set up by a heliostats field which reflects solar radiation into a central receiver located atop a tower. These heliostats track the Sun with two axis. They are also considered as point focus collectors.

Are solar thermal power plants controllable?

Since power generation can be flexibly adapted to demand, solar thermal power plants are referred to as controllable power plants. Solar thermal power plants have an additional advantage. If there is little solar radiation for several days due to the weather, they can be operated in hybrid mode.

What is a power tower concentrating solar power plant?

In summary, the power tower concentrating solar power plant, at the heart of which lies the heliostat, is a very promising area of renewable energy. Benefits include high optical concentration ratios and operating temperatures, corresponding to high efficiency, and an ability to easily incorporate thermal energy storage.

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