

Techno-Economic Views on Solar

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Brought to you by the Heliostat Consortium Resource, Training, and Education (RTE) topic area

BIO

Axel Schweitzer is a project leader at sbp sonne gmbh, one of the most experienced solar engineering offices globally, developing cutting-edge solar technology projects and spanning all six continents.

With a diverse career spanning over 30 years in the Concentrated Solar Power (CSP) sector, Axel Schweitzer has been involved in the implementation of numerous Power Tower and Parabolic Trough projects worldwide and more recently in China.

ABSTRACT

A considerable number of combined PV/CSP power plants are currently being installed in China, with a focus on power tower technology. The new “Document No. 136”, published 09.02.25 by China’s National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) introduces market-based pricing by 2025-06-01 and means new opportunities and challenges for CSP technologies and firms. It will increase the need for cost reduction and highly efficient project implementation. Part 1 of the seminar first outlines the Chinese policies aimed at gradually integrating CSP technologies into the market, culminating in the recent shift to market-oriented pricing as defined in “Document No. 136”. Furthermore, the seminar reports the recent progress achieved in the parabolic trough and heliostat technologies, developed by sbp sonne and implemented together with their Chinese partners Dongfang Boiler Group Co. Ltd. (DEC Boiler) and China Shipbuilding New Power Co. Ltd. (CSNP) in several large-scale projects. Both technologies have benefited from a continuous learning curve over nearly a decade and multiple major projects in China. Part 2 of the seminar will discuss a study that analyzes the levelized cost of solar process heat from CSP and PV at three sunny locations (Australia, Saudi Arabia, China) for a 100 MWth constant heat demand. The solar sources vary in their annual behavior but yield similar, competitive levelized cost of heat. The large storage enables 90% of solar share.



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Concentrating Solar-Thermal Power

Heliostat Consortium Seminar series host:
Brooke Stanislawski

Register on Zoom: <https://bit.ly/3MbF5Lj>