CSP from 1990 to Today: A Personal Perspective on Lessons Learned and the Road Ahead



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ABSTRACT
Drawing on more than 35 years of experience, this presentation will explore the evolution of CSP through Marcelino Sánchez's time at CIEMAT, Solargen, Abengoa Solar, and CENER. A central chapter will focus on his time as R&D Director at Abengoa Solar New Technologies during a formative period of rapid technological development and international expansion. He will discuss the relationship between research, technology validation, the development of the Solúcar testing and demonstration platform at Sanlúcar la Mayor, and commercial CSP deployment. The talk will also revisit his earlier experience at Solargen, including work that contributed to the origins of the MOSAIC project. These experiences will frame a personal assessment of CSP's achievements, setbacks, and lessons learned, and of the opportunities and risks it faces in today's energy transition. Particular attention will be given to reliability, thermal storage, digitalization, and the challenge of translating innovation into successful industrial applications.

BIO
Marcelino Sánchez, Ph.D., is Director of the Department of Solar Energy Technologies and Storage at CENER, Spain's National Renewable Energy Centre. He has more than 35 years of international experience in solar research and technology development. From 2006 to 2008, he served as R&D Director at Abengoa Solar New Technologies during a formative period of technological development and international expansion, including the development of the Solúcar research and demonstration platform. His earlier career included research and group leadership at CIEMAT and a Marie Curie postdoctoral fellowship at Solargen in the UK, followed by a contract with the company. Some of his work at Solargen contributed to the origins of the MOSAIC project. His expertise spans solar concentrators, receivers, thermal storage, plant performance, and digital technologies. He holds a Ph.D. in Physical Chemistry from the Complutense University of Madrid.

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