

SolarTAC

Technology Acceleration Center

The Original Founding Member

Xcel Energy

Original Founding Members

SunEdison

Abengoa Solar

Participating Organizations

City of Aurora

*National Renewable
Energy Laboratory (NREL)*

*Colorado Renewable
Energy Collaboratory*

Colorado School of Mines

Colorado State University

Colorado University

Managed and Operated by:

*Midwest Research
Institute (MRI)*

The Solar Technology Acceleration Center is an integrated, world-class test facility where the solar industry will test, validate, and demonstrate near-market solar technologies. The SolarTAC mission is to increase the efficiency of solar energy products and rapidly deploy them to the commercial market. Xcel Energy, SunEdison, and Abengoa Solar are among the first member companies to sign on.

The original founding member companies, along with the managing and operations partner, Midwest Research Institute (Kansas City, Missouri), are inviting solar technology developers, manufacturers, integrators, service providers, and utility companies to join them as founding or sponsoring members of SolarTAC. All can benefit from the shared expertise provided by a SolarTAC membership.

The Site

Located near Denver International Airport in Aurora, Colorado, the 80-acre SolarTAC site offers flat, graded topography and excellent insolation conditions with over 300 days of sunshine a year in one of the most progressive renewable energy states in the country.

The site is scheduled for completion in early 2009. It will include facilities for testing both photovoltaic and concentrating solar power technologies, including access to grid interconnections.

The SolarTAC business plan allows its members to sponsor proprietary research, in which results are not shared; common research in which results are shared with other SolarTAC members; and the broadest level of research that can be shared with the public.

Resources

The members of SolarTAC have all agreed to partner with the state of Colorado and the four major research institutions that make up the Colorado Renewable Energy Collaboratory – Colorado State University, Colorado School of Mines, University of Colorado, and the National Renewable Energy Laboratory. The Collaboratory institutions will complement the applied testing and demonstration work in Aurora with more fundamental facilities and scientific research at each of the four institutions. In addition, they will participate in planning SolarTAC activities and will respond to requests for research proposals.

Membership

Xcel Energy, **The Original Founding Member**, initiated the concept for SolarTAC. The two other **Original Founding Members**, SunEdison and Abengoa Solar, helped develop the framework for SolarTAC and will be among the first companies to take full advantage of the site.

Two levels of membership exist within the organization, each providing distinctive membership benefits, initial investment requirements, and annual dues as described in the following table.

| Membership Level | Minimum Initial Investment | Annual Dues |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| Founding Members | \$500,000/year during years 1-3 | \$100,000 beginning in year 4 |
| Sponsoring Members | None | \$100,000 beginning on date joined (\$25,000 for small companies) |

Founding Member Benefits

- Permanent seat on the Executive Board and Scientific Advisory Board
- Full vote in planning the build-out of test site, selecting technologies for “cost-shared” testing, and SolarTAC’s R&D portfolio
- 5-acre tract of land (expandable) for proprietary performance tests and reliability studies of emerging technology and equipment
- A lead role in securing public funding from state and federal funding agents to leverage and complement the private investment in SolarTAC
- Recognition in all publications, presentations, partnerships
- All benefits of a Sponsoring Member.

Sponsoring Member Benefits

- Representation on the Executive Board
- Permanent seat on the Scientific Advisory Board
- Voice in planning the build-out of the test site, selecting technologies for “cost-shared” testing and SolarTAC’s R&D portfolio
- Access to secure, patrolled SolarTAC site for testing solar equipment and components
- Access to all results of cost-shared testing and R&D
- Access to trained, on-site personnel to assist with set-up, operation, and maintenance of equipment.

For more information, contact:

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