

SGS QUALITY ASSURANCE AND QUALITY CONTROL SHIELDING SOLAR POWER

JUNE 2011

A contract signed into effect in May 2011 and continuing until June 2012 committed SGS services to provide comprehensive technical assistance for the construction of ASTE 1A, the first of three concentrated solar power plants to be built in Alcázar de San Juan, Spain. Over the last year, SGS has been responsible for expert quality assurance and quality control during both construction and commissioning of the plant and guaranteeing the facility's compliance with all required quality and performance standards.

SGS AWARDED QUALITY ASSURANCE AND QUALITY CONTROL CONTRACT BY ELECNOR

One of Spain's most respected business entities and the ASTE 1A project constructor, Elecnor has specialised in integrated management, project promotion and infrastructure development since 1958. To ensure the highest standards of quality and to fulfill all required performance conditions of

the ASTE 1A concentrated solar power plant, Elecnor sought a partner proven to possess reliable inspection, verification testing and certification skills.

Outstanding professional expertise and vast experience in projects of this kind were key components in SGS being selected from the long list of contenders reviewed by Elecnor executives and technicians.

A BRIGHT FUTURE: CONCENTRATED SOLAR POWER (CSP)

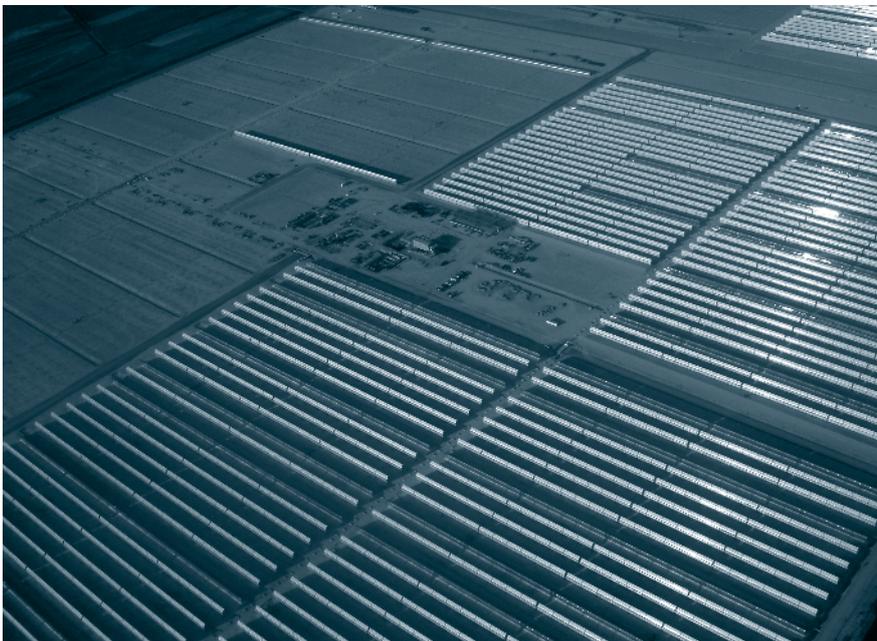
CSP produces electrical power by compacting large quantities of sunlight into small areas, converting that light to heat for feeding an engine which, in turn, generates electrical power. In order that CSP be able to function, clear and sunny skies are necessary thereby making desert regions best suited for the technology. Spain leads the global field in concentrated solar power technology with several upcoming government-supported projects. CSP is a valuable environmental

asset producing clean energy and creating new business opportunity. Savvy business executives and decision makers within the energy industry recognise the importance of autonomous inspection, verification, testing and certification in building confidence and protecting investment.

SGS QUALITY GUARANTEED

In the ASTE 1A project, equipment reliability was paramount as even minor failures could have caused costly suspension of services or production resulting in substantial financial losses. Therefore, it was of top priority that SGS ensured quality and reliability of equipment in the earliest stages. In order to guarantee the highest quality of equipment components at Spain's ASTE 1A concentrated solar power plant, the project's constructor chose to rely on SGS independent inspection, verification, testing and certification skills.

SGS quality assurance and quality control services mandated that equipment and industrial facilities within the ASTE 1A project had been manufactured in compliance with all contractual specifications, mandatory requirements and obligatory quality standards and had been expeditiously and thoroughly examined by SGS professionals.



SGS independently verified, inspected and tested all materials, parts, end products and plant facilities, both at off-site manufacturer locations and during the on-site construction phase throughout the ASTE 1A project. SGS state-of-the art resources and unique planetary network provided ASTE 1A the best quality assurance throughout the entire chain of supply.

SGS ARRAY OF SERVICES

The SGS extraordinary global network, designed to meet the needs of industry worldwide, offered the ASTE 1A project an extensive range of services covering the complete supply chain. These SGS services included assistance in assessing suppliers, supervising component and equipment production and monitoring delivery schedules. SGS experienced experts rated vendors, tracked the supply chain and ensured the project partner superior quality every step of the way.

At the ASTE 1A concentrated solar power plant in Spain, a highly skilled team of SGS experts including mechanical and electrical instrumentation supervisors supported the Elecnor Quality Control Department with extensive on-site construction oversight services to ensure that construction proceeded in accordance with project specifications and requirements and fulfilled all technical assistance needs before and during the commissioning of the Alcázar de San Juan facility.



SGS SHINING IN SPAIN

SGS quality assurance provided the ASTE 1A facility owner with the certainty that structures, components, materials and systems met prescribed quality standards and would satisfactorily perform throughout the duration of implementation. SGS quality control, on the other hand, focused on providing the actual measurement, testing and supervision

of manufacturers' individual oversight by independently inspecting each unit or administering multiple sample testing.

SGS was especially proud to lend its extensive services and expertise to this significant project contributing to the increase in the production of clean power to supply an energy-dependent society while protecting the natural environment of the blue planet.

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