


Mecasolar expands in China

November, 2007: The Spanish company Mecasolar is starting to gain a toehold in China. The maker of dual-axis tracking systems has delivered more than 100 of its products to the Chinese module manufacturer ET Solar.



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Mecasolar's tracking installation in a prominent setting: The venue for the Beach Volleyball Coliseum for the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing.

The systems, all of which are fitted with ET Solar modules, were set up in various locations throughout China, the Navarra-based company announced. The first of the installations, each with 11 kW, was put in a prestigious setting in Beijing – at one of the venues for the Olympic Games in 2008. It will supply the Beach Volleyball Coliseum with electricity. The other installations, using the MS Tracker 10+ model, will be installed by June of next year at similarly representative locations like the Olympic stadium, but also in remote regions in order to improve power supply there.

Mecasolar characterizes the cooperation with the Far East company as essential for the successful introduction of its products in China. The cooperation between the Chinese company and Spain's OPDE Group, which owns PV installation maker OPDE and engineering services firm Proinso along with Mecasolar, began last year. According to an agreement inked at the time, the Chinese company will sell Mecasolar's tracking systems under the brand ETmecasolar. In return, OPDE Group has been selling modules from ET Solar since the start of the year.

Beyond that, Mecasolar is considering building a factory in China. The company would use the plant to build complete systems for the Asian market. The initial production would be for 1,000 units per year. At the same time, some of the European manufacturing would be shifted to the new factory. In Spain, the company's annual production volumes currently are at 8,000 tracking systems, according to Mecasolar.

Mecasolar sold more than one-third of that amount with a single move: the Spanish engineering services firm Ibernico, a subsidiary of energy company Iberdrola, wants to build three PV parks in Cáceres province by the end of 2008. Each park will have a capacity of 10 MW, provided by more than 1,000 tracking installations. Mecasolar has been producing systems for the first park since September. It is scheduled to go on line in May, in Talayuela. The contract is worth €36 million (\$51 million).

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