



# Solar PV and Project Financing

**Global Workshop on Grid Connected Renewable Energy** 

**USEA / USAid** 

Washington, DC • September 1st 2009



## The Company

**Solarpack** is a Solar Photovoltaic developer specialized in mid-sized Solar PV plants (2MW to 20MW installed power, 20 Acres to 200 Acres in surface area)

The Company started in 2005, and currently has 30 employees

**Headquartered** in Getxo (Spain), we have offices in Seville (Spain), Nîmes (France), Santiago (Chile) and Lafayette (CA, USA)

**We** have developed 21.5 MW which have been in operation since 2007 We currently have a large pipeline of projects under development

**We** are proud partners in business with Landowners, Utility Companies, Equipment Suppliers, Investors, Banks, Law Firms and Consultants, all of whom without we would be unable to achieve our goals



# **Our Activity**

**Development** of Solar Photovoltaic Power Plants

**Investments** in renewable power plants with own or third parties' equity

**Consulting and advising** on renewable energy projects to developers, technology providers, financial institutions, owners and contractors

**Services** related to development, technical evaluation of a project, due diligence, construction supervision, operation & maintenance and administration



## Solar Photovoltaic, because

- it is simple, easy and fast to deploy
- it does not consume water or fuel...just sunlight
- it is efficient at small or large scale
- it is modular
- it has solid prediction patterns of generation
- it has minimum visual impact
- it is generated closer to the consumer than any other energy
- it is robust and consistent (availability > 99%)
- it lasts longer, with almost no maintenance

## ...but especially because

it is quickly becoming <u>COSt-COMPetitive</u> at a rate which makes not only other renewables tremble, <u>but</u> even that of traditional forms of energy generation...



# Difference in tariffs for rooftop & ground-mounted in EU/USA

• Germany + 35%

• Italy + 36%

• Greece +12%

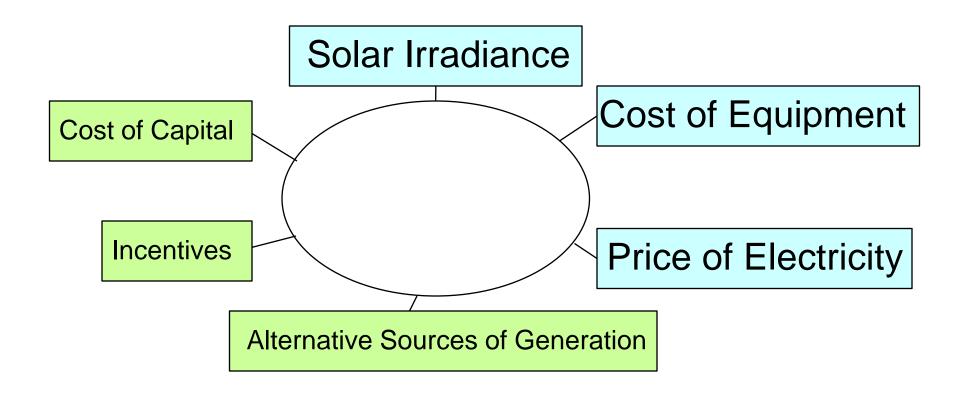
• France + 46%

• Spain + 6%

• The difference in average installation costs in California (USA) is 5.7\$/W commercial and 8.4\$/W residential (California Solar Initiative, January 2009) (+47%)



## **Drivers of Solar PV Cost Competitiveness**



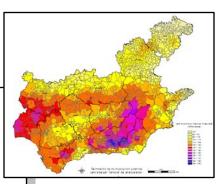


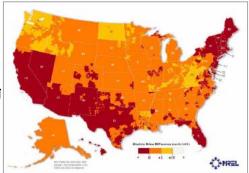
# Solar Irradiance

- Income is directly proportional to solar irradiance corrected by temperature and plant efficiency factors
- kWh/kWp with one Axis tracking system and % against Williamsburg, VA

| North Chile | 2543 (162%) | Williamsburg | 1574 (100%) |
|-------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|
| Mojave      | 1985 (126%) | Singapore    | 1479 (94%)  |
| Los Angeles | 1878 (119%) | New York     | 1465 (93%)  |
| Seville     | 1802 (114%) | Munich       | 1177 (75%)  |
| Athens      | 1626 (103%) | London       | 887 (56%)   |

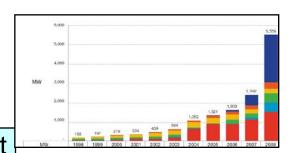
- Depending on the size, it typically connects to <u>distribution</u> infrastructure
- In some areas in the world, Solar PV is already competitive without incentives



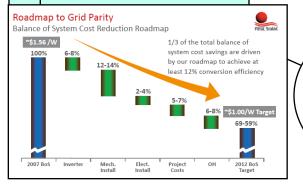




# **Cost of Equipment**



## **BOS Still to Go**



Volume of the Market

From 7.5 \$/W (2005) to 4.0 \$/W(2009) for 1 axis

## Irruption of Thin Film



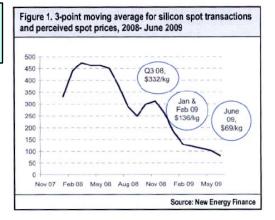
## **GW Size Players**

SunPower 514 + 500 MW

Suntech 1000 MW

First Solar 735 +392 MW

Reaction of Si-x





# Profile of Renewable Energy Investments

CAPITAL INTENSIVE

ATTRACTIVE RATIO RISK / PROFITABILITY



LONG TERM FIT OR PPA

ELIGIBLE FOR PROJECT FINANCE



# But renewable projects of certain sizes only work <u>if</u> they are bankable

- Long term Power Purchase Agreement contracts with a reliable buyer (typically 20 years) or Feed-in-Tariff in place with utility or State guarantee
- ➤ Due diligence covering technical, legal, permitting and insurance aspects of the project
- Financial case to have a debt service coverage ratio of 1.20/1.25
- ➤ Interest swap to cover at least 80% of the interest expense in the project
- ➤ Track record of developer and integrator/contractor
- ➤ O&M contract to cover several years of service
- ➤ Sound Investor/Owner

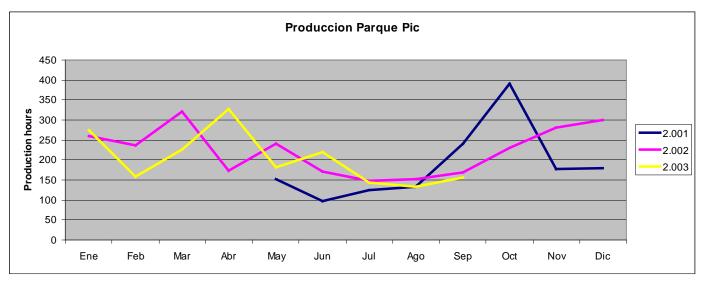


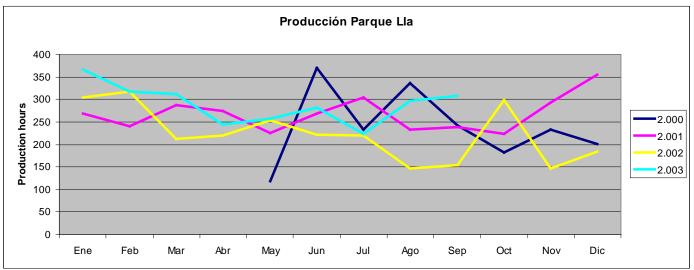
# Profile of a Typical Solar PV Project Finance Scheme

- ➤ Non-recourse financing. Only guarantees: those provided by the project
- The assets to be isolated from other risks through a Special Purpose Vehicle
- ➤ All the assets and rights of the project are pledged in favor of the lender
- ➤ Term of the Finance: 15-20 years
- ➤ Leverage 75%+
- ➤ Cost: Libor/Euribor + spread + interest swap
- > Reserve fund to be provided to cover 6 months debt service
- Finance of VAT associated with investments
- ➤ Bridge loan during construction



## **Wind Farms in Spain**







#### **Promociones Solarpack**

#### Isla Mayor (Sevilla)

Potencia total 8,4 MWp

Producción 14.516.000 kWh/año

Contratista: SunPower

FFPP: 70 inversores privados

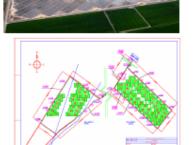
Financiación:



Terminado Octubre 2007

SOLAR O&M

Servicios Adm. SOLAR



#### Lebrija (Sevilla)

Potencia total 3,8 MWp

Producción 6,570,000 kWh/año

Contratista: SunPower

FFPP. 32 inversores privados

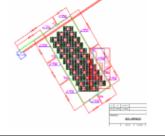
Financiación:



Terminado Diciembre 2007

SOLAR M&O Servicios Adm. solar





#### Llerena 1 (Badajoz)

Potencia total 4,8 MWp

Producción 8.539.000 kWh/año SunPower / SOLAR Contratista:

FFPP: 40 inversores privados



Terminado Diciembre 2007

M&O





#### Llerena 2 (Badajoz)

Potencia total 4,0 MWp

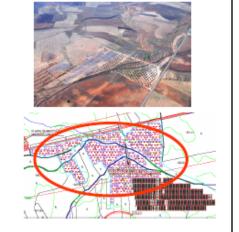
8.304.000 kWh/año Producción Solon AG / SOLAR Contratista:

FFPP: 40 inversores privados

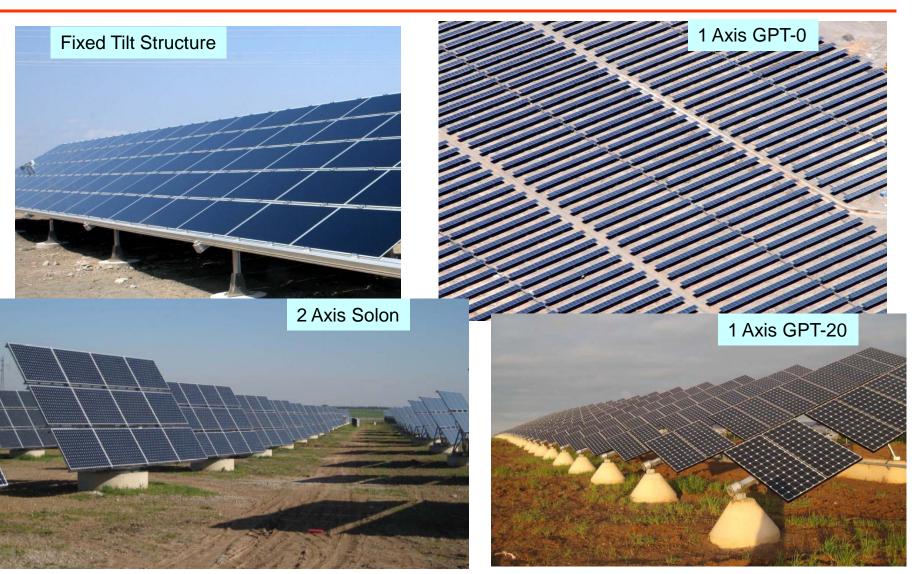
Financiación: BARCLAYS

Terminado Diciembre 2007

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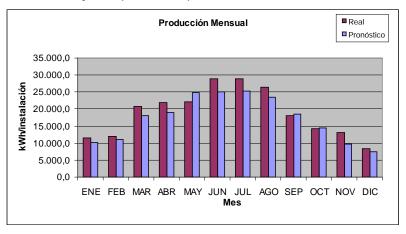




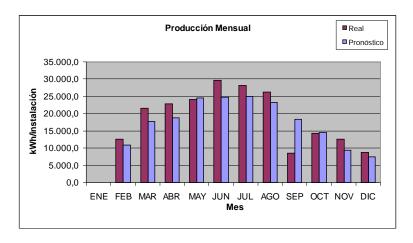




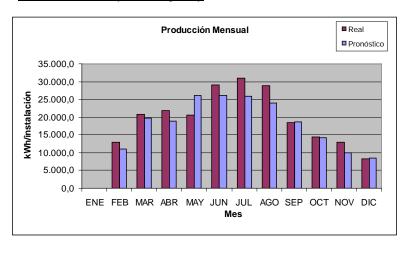
## Isla Mayor (Seville)



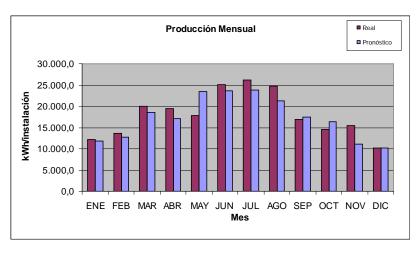
### Lebrija (Seville)



### Llerena 1 (Badajoz)



## Llerena 2 (Badajoz)





# **Obstacles for Project Finance in Developing Countries**

- ➤ Rare long-term commercial financial instruments in local currency
- > If € or \$ is used and PPA is in local currency, exchange rate risks play a role
- ➤ Off-taker guarantee and/or country risks
- ➤ Country stability is critical for long term investments

## ...add to typical renewable energy problems

> Electricity prices are kept under the cost level for political reasons



# **Solarpack Projects in Africa**

## Pan-African University Project

In Lagos, Nigeria

Among 50 best MBA centers in the world (FT)

Co-development with University

Total Power 0,4 MWp Solar PV

Hybrid installation with existing gen sets

Supplying the University needs

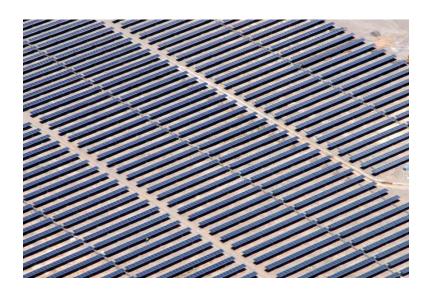
Confined environment with enough security

Excellent visibility for a successful project

Status: feasibility technical and financial

Financing: EU, private foundations, University









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