

Why is solar power important in Chile?

Solar power in Chile is an increasingly important source of energy. Total installed photovoltaic (PV) capacity in Chile reached 8.36 GW in 2023. Solar energy provided 19.9% of national electricity generation in Chile in 2023, compared to less than 0.1% in 2013.

How much solar energy does Chile need?

Chile's DNI is 3,800 kWh/m² in the Atacama desert, the world's highest solar resource for CSP projects. The region is not subject to sandstorms. Variable renewables, PV and wind, increasingly supply the grid, and to complement these renewables, flexible dispatchable generation, such as is provided by CSP with thermal energy storage, is needed.

How much does a solar power plant cost in Chile?

Because of its good solar resource several international companies have bid record low prices for solar thermal power plants in Chile, including the Copiapó Solar Project bid at \$63/MWh by SolarReserve in 2017. If realized this would have been the lowest ever price for a CSP project in the world.

How much energy will Chile produce a year?

Thanks to its large size and installed capacity, it is expected to produce around 1,200 GWh annually, 100% clean energy injected into the National Electric System. The latter would allow it to power approximately 512 thousand Chilean homes, avoiding the emission of around 947 thousand tons of CO₂ into the atmosphere.

Does SolarReserve have a CSP project in Chile?

SolarReserve developed three large tower CSP projects in Chile between 2015 and 2018, all central tower CSP, all fully permitted (contemporaneous interview with then SolarReserve CEO Kevin Smith). Due to technical problems at Crescent Dunes storage tanks closing its Nevada project, SolarReserve was unable to move ahead with the projects in Chile.

Could Chilean manufacturing benefit from CSP?

A study assessing the benefits to Chilean manufacturing estimated that Chilean industries could supply between 18% and 56% of the parts needed for CSP overall and could supply most of the thermal energy storage between building the tanks and providing the molten salts.

2 ???; The Tocopilla (227MW) and Tamarico (167MW) are part of a 588MW Chilean portfolio from Metlen. Image: Metlen Energy & Metals. Greek renewables developer Metlen Energy & ...

Enel Chile has begun commercial operation of its new photovoltaic plant, the PFV Las Salinas stages 1, 2 and 3, with a net installed capacity of 205 MW, which will operate jointly with one of...

Utility group Enel Chile is set to start commercial operation of the 67-MW/134-MWh El Manzano battery energy storage system (BESS) in the Santiago Metropolitan Region, after finalising all tests and receiving approval ...

Utility company Enel Chile's renewable energy arm Enel Green Power Chile has begun commercial operation of its 375MW Campos del Sol PV power plant after receiving official authorisation.

Despite auction bids offered at record-low prices in Chile, first by SolarReserve, and subsequently by Grupo Cerro, they have yet to advance to commercial production as of 2023. Fraunhofer has published (pdf) data on the value and competitiveness of grid services that hybrid CSP-PV projects could offer in Chile.

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2 ???· The Tocopilla (227MW) and Tamarico (167MW) are part of a 588MW Chilean portfolio from Metlen. Image: Metlen Energy & Metals. Greek renewables developer Metlen Energy & Metals, previously known as ...

Looking ahead, the report outlines substantial developments in the pipeline for Chile's renewable energy sector. As of February 2024, NCRE and Storage Systems capacity under construction stand at 6,278 MW, with solar photovoltaic projects constituting 63% of this total, followed by wind projects at 30%.

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