

A large herd of goats is grazing on green vegetation under a solar panel array. The solar panels are mounted on metal frames, and the goats are scattered throughout the area, some standing and some lying down. The scene is set in a rural, open field under a clear blue sky.

# PV energy: the present and future of energy transition

Photovoltaic energy is a crucial element of energy transition. According to the International Energy Agency (IEA) solar power is on track to set a record for new global deployments from 2022, with an average of 125 GW of new capacity planned globally between 2021 and 2025. Photovoltaics is on its way to becoming the leading renewable energy due to its rapid development in recent years and the low cost of its development.





Within this context, some pioneering companies known for their vision and commitment to solar energy are paramount to the development of this industry. Soltec, a company specializing in vertically integrated solutions in the photovoltaic solar energy sector, plans to promote this industry through innovation, research and social commitment. The company, based in Murcia, Spain, has actively developed photovoltaic technology since 2004 and currently

operates in 16 countries, with its main markets being Spain, North America and Latin America.

Supplying the latest technology available, the company has a team of over 100 engineers worldwide and over 35 international patents. Founded by its CEO Raúl Morales, Soltec has been offering cutting-edge products to the market for 18 years due to its commitment to innovation and it is now the third global supplier of solar

trackers in the accumulated, with an international presence in countries on five continents, of which it is the leader mainly in Spain, Chile and Brazil.

In addition to the Spanish market, it is worth mentioning that Latin America is a world region where Soltec's presence and business prospects are more significant, with a market share of 31%. The solar energy company is a market leader in countries including Brazil, Mexico and Chile, where projects of up to 300 or 400 MW are being developed. In addition, it also operates in Australia, China, India and the United States, amongst others.

#### Innovation and new launches

One of the characteristics making Soltec a leading company within the industry is its commitment to innovation and development of new technologies which strengthen the solar tracker market. With that aim, Soltec inaugurated in 2018 BiTEC, the first Bifacial Tracking Evaluation Center worldwide in Livermore, California (USA).

It continues to be a sectoral driver with the launch of the SF8 multidrive tracker, which revolutionized the solar tracking market in 2020. Furthermore, its bifacial configuration can generate up to 8.6% more energy than the remaining solar trackers. This tracker of elegant design and reinforced structure, 22% more robust than the SF7, facilitates installation and favours high performance on any terrain.

Soltec recently entered the distributed generation segment with its product Solarfighter, which is the first complete kit consisting of product and comprehensive service to ensure successful commissioning of distributed generation projects of photovoltaic tracking of up to 12MW.

The company is also promoting work lines which include green hydrogen and storage, amongst others. Convinced of the relevance of solar energy self-consumption for hydrogen generation, it became a founding member of AHMUR (Murcia Region Green Hydrogen Association) and has already undertaken some projects in this field.

In its long career of innovative products, the most recent is its tracker SFOne, which it launched in 2021 in response to market demand. With this new model, Soltec recovered its commitment to 1P technology, developed in 2009 with its follower SA Series.

SFOne is made up of two rows connected to a single axis and has been specially designed for longer modules, 72 and 78 cells. It is self-powered thanks to its dedicated module, which translates into a lower operational cost. In addition, it has the most advanced technology, Dy-Wind, which presents the most advanced methodology for the design of wind resistant tracking structures, and the optimization of the Diffuse Booster system for low light conditions.





'Innovation is part of Soltec's DNA,' explains Raúl Morales, CEO. 'This is a value that is intrinsic to all our products and actions of the company, and we can do this thanks to the investment we make in research and development and the team of professionals we have who work constantly to develop technology, most cutting-edge that offers the market solar trackers that adapt to all terrains and that have an efficiency above the market.'

The continual investigation of new ways to improve the photovoltaic sector has led Soltec to be a clear reference in the sector. Since its inception, it has supplied trackers for projects with a total of 11.8 GW to date and expects its product to have a 40% penetration rate by 2025.

#### Ecovoltaic as a new PV generation

Ecovoltaic is a new concept that encompasses a series of requirements that certify that the development of photovoltaic plants achieve a harmonious balance between the economic and social development of local communities and the preservation and care of the environment. In this way, Soltec undertakes to guarantee the implementation of the circular economy, the criteria of respect and integration of the environment and biodiversity, agrovoltatics, landscape integration, etc. and the national

compensation of the carbon footprint in the plants it develops, for example.

Under these new criteria, the company undertakes to create local job offers, also favouring groups with difficulties in finding a job. It also gives priority to contracting nearby goods and services, except for non-market conditions and the use of national components or services for at least 50% of the total cost of the project, giving priority to local and regional suppliers. And, finally, it undertakes to domicile the vehicle companies in the municipalities where the

projects are carried out.

'Our job is not only to create products and services for photovoltaics, but also to contribute to the energy transition in all possible aspects, taking this type of energy further. Among other things, improving the environment in which we develop our projects, as well as helping the people who live in that place or designing products in such a way that the impact on the environment is minimal,' said Morales.

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