2 MW: King Abdullah University, Saudi Arabia

The roof top of the King Abdullah University of Science and Technology is certainly unique. It bears the first and largest solar installation of Saudi Arabia. The 2 MW Conergy power plant is a record breaking project for the entire Middle East.

6,000 times around the world in a car

The roof top solar installation is installed on the north and south laboratories of the university. The power system features premium components, combining over 9,300 high-efficiency solar modules with Conergy Suntop III mounting systems and Conergy 280K central inverters. The photovoltaic plant occupies 11,577 square meters of roof space and produces 3,332 megawatt hours of clean energy annually, while also saving up to 33,320 tons of carbon emissions. This equates to carbon offsets of approximately 6,000 circumnavigations of the world by car.

A secret formula

Conergy partnered up with Saudi Arabia's leading solar system integrator, National Solar Systems (NSS). The Hamburg based solar experts designed the park and were responsible for the engineering, supervision and commissioning while installation works and operational management were implemented by National Solar Systems. Managing Director of NSS, Abdulhadi Al-Mureeh says: "For the first time, clean power is flowing into the national grid. This is a historical event for us in Saudi Arabia. The strong collaboration and mutual cooperation between National Solar and Conergy was the secret formula behind this success."

Oil-rich Middle East goes green

Saudi Arabia, the largest oil producer of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) with approximately one-fifth of the world's proven oil reserves, is planning to make solar power a major contributor to its energy supply. With its favourable insolation levels and extensive areas featuring very low population densities it shows ideal characteristics for the deployment of solar energy.

"We are extremely pleased to be part of this ground-breaking project", says Marc Lohoff, Head of Conergy Asia Pacific and the Middle East. "We support the future of renewable energy in the Middle East with our solar know how and the latest technology. This project demonstrates that the development of alternatives to traditional fossil fuel has taken on a new urgency, even in oil-rich countries like Saudi Arabia."

Project Highlights	
Date	December 2009
Location	KAUST, Saudi Arabia
Output	2 MWp
Produced MW/h annually	3,332 MW/h annually
Modules	9,306 Monocrystalline modules
Inverters	Conergy 280K central inverters
Mounting System	Conergy Suntop III mounting systems
Size of Plant	11,577 square meters
CO_2 Emissions Saved	33,320 tons / year