



Questa Solar

Philip Martin, Development Manager

Here in northern New Mexico, it's at a high elevation, the temperatures are moderate temperatures, and there are a lot of sunny days per year – over 300 sunny days per year on average here.

Kent DeBoer, Project Manager

What we've done with this project is we've repurposed this land into a 1-megawatt solar facility, and while doing that, we're proving out a new technology for concentrating photovoltaic.

In early 2011, Chevron Technology Ventures began operations at a 1-megawatt concentrating photovoltaic (CPV) solar facility in Questa, New Mexico.

Approximately 175 solar panels are installed on 20 acres, making it one of the largest CPV installations in the United States.

Luis Reyes, CEO, Kit Carson Electric Cooperative

The environment is very important to us, and so we want to do our part when it comes to energy independence for the area, and solar has been our solution. We also like the idea of it being able to power a whole community about 80 percent of the daytime hours in which Questa, New Mexico, will get most of its power if not all of it from solar.

Kent DeBoer, Project Manager

This is a much more efficient technology than standard crystalline silicone type of panels which you'll see on most rooftops. The only caveat is you have to be directly focused into the sun.

Sherri Hankal, Project Engineer

The 4-Q sensor has a series of wafers stacked up, and it's on each panel, and at four quadrants there's a sensor that looks for shadow, so if the shadow covers the sensor the tracker knows it has to adjust a little bit to get back into the sun and focus the sun's power directly on the lens.

Esther Garcia, Mayor, Questa

I think it's going to be good for Questa. I think it's bringing a lot of interest to the community, so we're really excited about it.

Luis Reyes, CEO, Kit Carson Electric Cooperative

These new technologies can be integrated into rural communities and can offer reliable, safe, inexpensive power.

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