



## Desert Power Play

The biggest market for solar-thermal electric generators will soon shift from Spain to the deserts of the U.S. Southwest, according to Solar Millennium AG, a developer of the power facilities. The German company will focus mostly on the U.S. during the next five years, says Christian Beltle, who is a board member.

Twenty-seven solar-thermal plants—which use mirrors to concentrate sunlight and heat water into steam to run a turbine—are under construction in Spain, according to data compiled by Bloomberg

New Energy Finance. The boom was created by government policies that guarantee attractive payments for the electricity produced by the plants. Now that's ending because new projects are unlikely to qualify for the favored treatment.

Stretches of southern California, Nevada and Arizona soak up some of the most intense solar radiation on the planet. Many states already have policies to promote renewable power, and lawmakers in Washington are weighing a possible national mandate.

BEN SILLS and JEREMY VAN LOON

**Solar-thermal generators** like these being built in Spain might provide 10 percent of the world's electricity by 2050, the International Energy Agency says.

## Water From the Sun

Some 884 million people worldwide don't have safe drinking water, according to the United Nations. Population growth and global warming will likely boost that total in coming decades.

One solution may lie in

combining solar power and filters. WorldWater & Solar Technologies Inc. in Princeton, New Jersey, has developed a purification system for remote areas and disaster zones that sets up in 15 minutes and produces 30,000 gallons (113,000 liters) of potable water a day from sources that would otherwise be unsafe. The system costs \$113,000 to \$135,000 and measures 7 feet (2.1 meters) on a side, so it can be moved on a trailer, in a small truck or in standard shipping containers. An array of photovoltaic panels unfolds to run the pumps that push water through the filters—and to provide power for mobile phones and computers as an added benefit.

More-traditional emergency

water treatment facilities take days or weeks to build and employ diesel-powered pumps and above-ground tanks. There's almost always someone around who can fix a diesel engine, Julian Parker of the International Rescue Committee says, while high-tech solutions can sometimes be too complicated or subject to breakdowns. Quentin Kelly, chief executive officer of privately held WorldWater, counters that his systems are proving their reliability in remote locations around the world. Several were used in Haiti after the earthquake, and Kelly says the U.S. military has installed 37 of his purifiers in Iraq and 8 in Afghanistan.

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Solar-powered water purifiers are in use in Haiti.



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