

**Mr. José Alfonso Nebrera's speech for Solar CSP EII launch  
(June 3, 2010 – Madrid, Spain)**

Good morning everybody,

The European Thermal Solar Industry Association ESTELA integrates directly or indirectly 140 companies, which are virtually all the players in the Concentrating Solar Power industry.

Why solar should have our maximum attention? Let me say once more that the solar resource is the only one with the potential to provide many times the energy demand of the world. But the solar technologies have a tremendous potential also in terms of cost reduction. That means that, when other sources would be reaching their limits in terms of costs or availability, solar will be there, and every day at a lower cost and more capable to adapt to the demand curve and to supplement other more intermittent renewable sources.

This well recognised fact is enough to justify the need to use any reasonable means to achieve the two most urgent goals which are in the thermal solar area of the solar industry initiative: cost reduction and further improvement of dispatchability.

Through the participation in internal and open workshops and by gathering their innovation initiatives, the industry as a whole has collaborated with the European Commission in the design of the Solar Initiative which is being launched today.

What is the industry doing?

Since the first economic signal was given by the Spanish Government only a few years ago, the European industry started enthusiastically a race of innovation based on the previous efforts done at the lab and pilot level in R&D institutions such as the Plataforma Solar de Almería.

The first commercial tower plants, the first commercial heat storage system, allowing dispatchable solar power for the first time, are only two of the main achievements in a relatively short period of time. Under the Spanish feed-in-tariff system, the industry is investing more than 10 billion Euros in new plants, with only comparatively minor incentives from the European Union institutions; 9 plants are already operational, and a few dozen more are in construction.

With all the difficulties, this effort is providing a unique environment where lessons are learned, experience is acquired and technology is being refined.

Thanks to this effort, as of today, the European industry is the world leader, but many other countries are understanding the crucial role of solar electricity in the world's future and are accelerating their own plans for technological development and plants deployment, and the recently published CSP Technology Roadmap elaborated by the IEA, which predicts that CSP will provide 10% of the world electricity by 2050, is going to further encourage these plans.

To maintain our leadership, we need a sound streamline of projects to continue the learning process and exploit the results of mass production of components and equipment, but we also need the support to develop innovative components, systems, plant configurations and concepts, further from the lab and pilot tests.

As just another sample of this industry's strong commitment, in the next few days ESTELA will make public a study coordinated by a world wide prestigious Consulting firm with the participation of a vast majority of the ESTELA members. Part of the study analyzes the different technologies and ways in which the industry is working to achieve the very same objectives of the SET Plan Solar Industry Initiative, and it is really encouraging to realize how many good ideas are being developed.

Once again, the industry congratulates the European Institutions for this initiative. If all the stakeholders play their respective roles, I firmly believe that we will achieve our goals and the Solar Industry Initiative will comply with its destiny: to be a key factor for the future of the world's energy supply.

When discussing a low carbon future, the CSP industry is going to be part of the solution, and is eagerly expecting that politicians and policy makers at the European and at the Member States will also be able to deliver their part of the deal.