SOPHIA

CPV ENEL IIN S.p.A.

CPV Modules Outdoor Test Station

Location of the infrastructure :

Catania, Italy http://www.enel.it

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Objectives: CPV Outdoor Characterization

Main features :

Thanks to the optimal irradiation conditions of the site (DNI equal to 1803 kWh/m²/ year and DHI equal to 20% of the global horizontal solar radiation), it represents a suitable location to test different kind of CPV modules. The test station allows to take experimental data (e.g. the I-V curves) on CPV modules under real operating conditions in order to define their energy performance.

It consists of the following subsystems:

- Dual axis tracking benches (tracking accuracy: ± 0.3 °and ± 0.1 °),
- ❖ I-V tracer unit with MPPT function,
- Reference cells and relevant temperature transducers,
- Dedicated small two axis tracking bench equipped for the measurement of Direct Normal Irradiance, Horizontal Global irradiance, horizontal diffuse irradiance, U-V irradiance (pyreliometer, pyranometers, U-V radiometers).

This infrastructure includes also a complete meteo-radiometric station in order to have all information about the environmental conditions during the testing period.



Limitations or constraints :

The access will be allowed with technical and scientific assistance from ENEL.

Typical services or results:

These test benches can be used for:

- CPV modules Power Rating under real outdoor operation conditions,
- ❖ Data acquisition for modelling the energy output of CPV modules.

Examples of research projects :

Experimental procedure set up to measure I-V curve and energy efficiency of CPV modules in outdoor conditions has been developed on the basis of general outdoor procedure described in IEC 62108.