



# Concentrated Solar Power



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NATIONAL RENEWABLE  
ENERGY CENTRE

## CSP

# Compressed Air Energy Storage

ASTERIX-CAESar project overview  
SolarX Webinar "Solar Concentration Technologies for  
Flexibility on the Production Side"  
Fritz Zaversky, Javier Baigorri, Xabier Rández

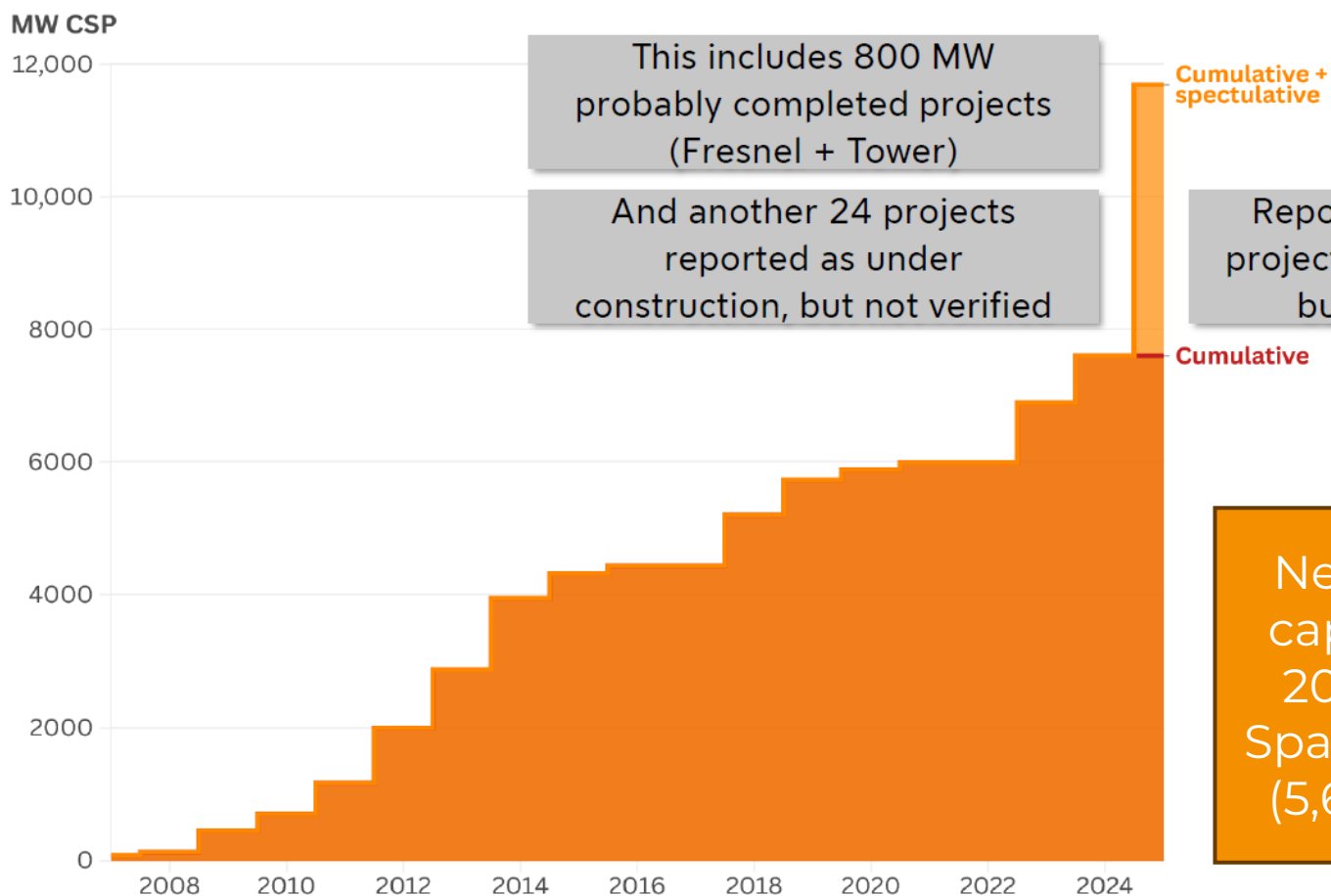


Funded by  
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UK participant in Horizon Europe Project ASTERIX-CAESar is  
supported by UKRI grant number 10097908 (Bluebox Energy).

This work has received funding from the Swiss State  
Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI).

# Is Concentrated Solar Power in a Crisis?



The CSP sector is tiny!

Reportedly, yet another 15 projects "under way" in China, but not included here

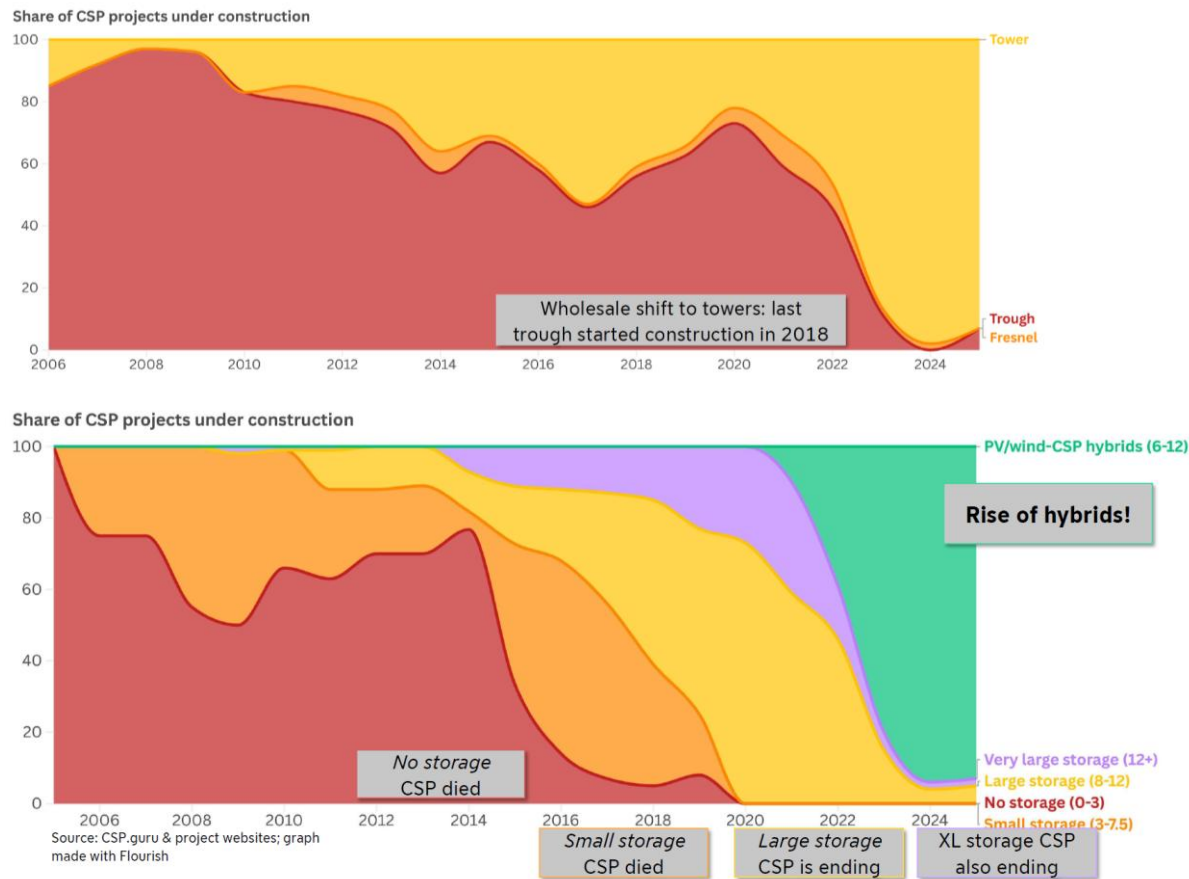
New PV capacity 2023 in Spain only (5,6 GW)

World wide 346 GW new PV capacity 2023

1419.0 GW total PV capacity in 2023

Source: Johan Lilliestam, Concentrating solar power: a solution looking for a problem

# Is Concentrated Solar Power in a Crisis?



Source: Johan Lilliestam, Concentrating solar power: a solution looking for a problem

- CSP is a hybrid generation/storage technology, to enable the integration of cheap, not dispatchable PV and Wind energy!
- The ASTERIX-CAESar project addresses exactly this objective!



# ASTERIx-CAESar project

17 Partners

10 Countries

4 Years (Oct 23-Sept 27)

7.2 M€ Budget

6-7 TRL

Concentrated Solar Power (CSP)

+

Compressed Air Energy Storage (CAES)

=

Higher share of variable output  
renewables and new operation strategy  
and business model for CSP



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ADItch



DOOSAN  
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Fraunhofer  
IKTS



AALBORG CSP  
- Changing Energy



idea  
energy

Nova  
Therm Tech

HEDNO

Keramikblech®  
Walter E. C. Pritzkow Spezialkeramik

engionic

apria

SoftInWay  
Switzerland GmbH

Bluebox Energy Ltd  
Beyond Net Zero Carbon



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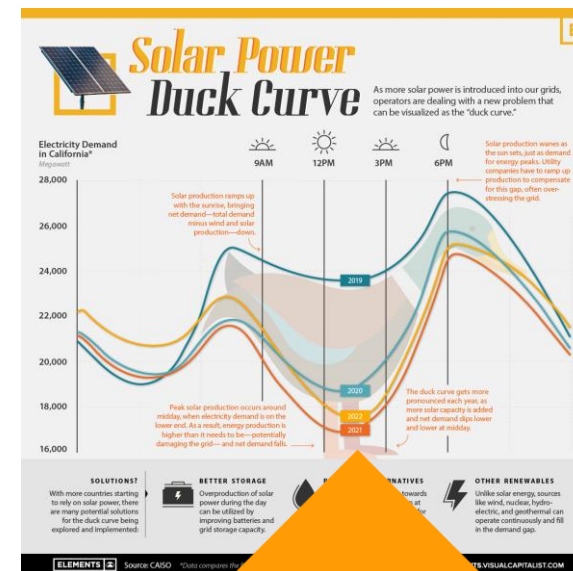
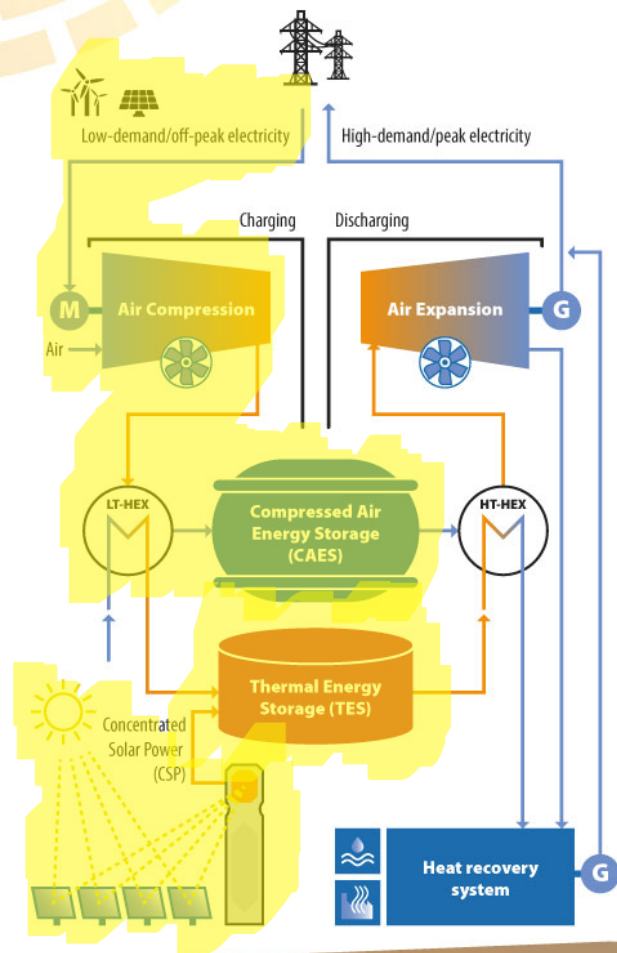
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# The project concept: CSP-CAES innovative & adaptive power plant

## Charging

- Off-peak low-price electricity is used to drive a compression train – compressed air is stored – heat of compression is also stored
- Solar energy is captured through the air-based CSP in the form of high-temperature heat (800°C)
- Thermal Energy Storage units consist of air-based **thermocline packed-bed** storage technology

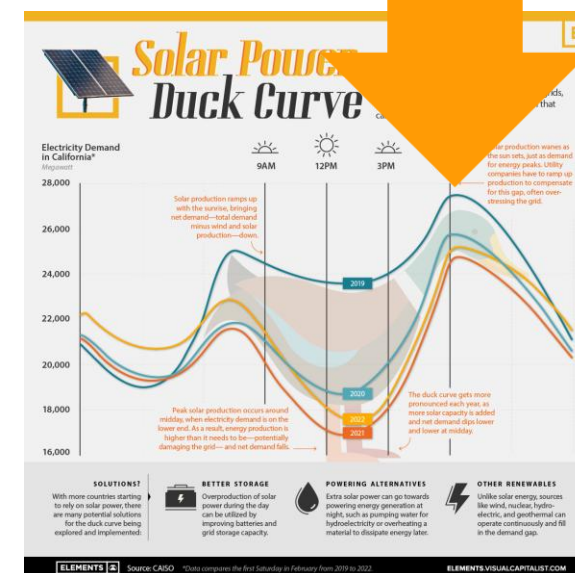
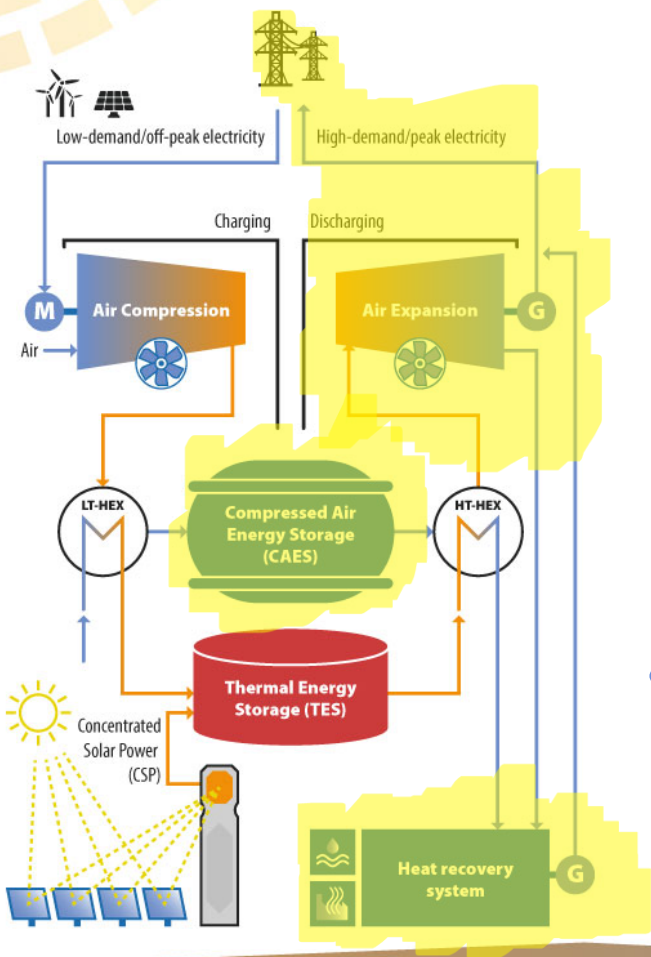




# The project concept: CSP-CAES innovative & adaptive power plant

## Discharging

- During **peak-hours**, the plant produces electricity via an **air expansion train**
- The **compressed air** is used to **substitute the compression work** of the topping gas turbine
- The project concept includes a **Heat Recovery system**: Rankine cycle, process heat for industry and/or desalination unit



# Key Innovation of the project - Charging

## Advanced solar Receiver

A highly efficient **Open Volumetric Air Receiver** operating at high temperature (800 °C).

## Advanced sensor technology and AI-based solar flux control

New fiber-optic sensors and advanced AI-based heliostat field/solar flux control and monitoring system to reduce O&M

## Tailored air compressor Technology

Advanced compression train for small-scale and large-scale. Design and optimization of cost-effective artificial pressure vessels

# CHARGING



# Key Innovation of the project - Discharging

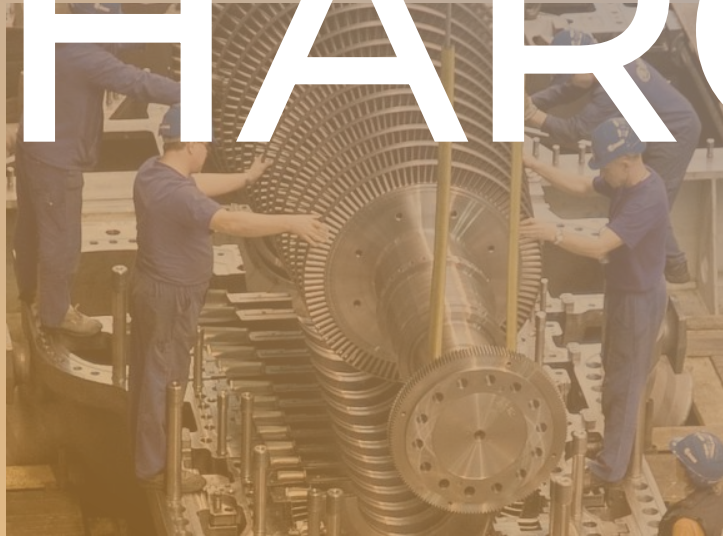
## Advanced heat exchanger Technology

Advanced air-to-air heat exchangers designs that guarantee high conversion efficiency.



## Tailored air expander Technology

Turbomachinery architecture is optimized for covering a wide range of rated power outputs, between 1 and 100 MW electric.



## Effective exhaust heat recuperation & integration with desalination

Advanced gas/liquid pressure exchanger uses the energy stored in the compressed air vessel to power the reverse osmosis desalination unit.





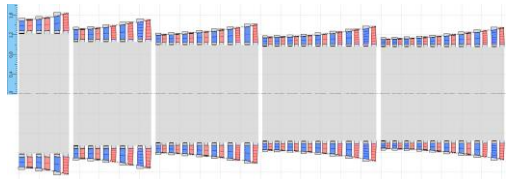
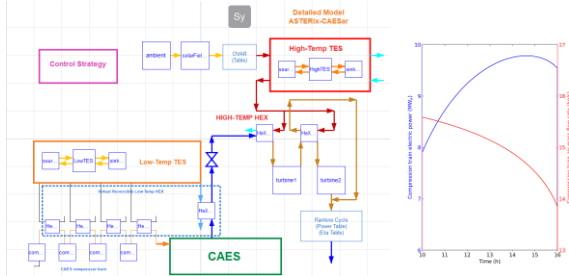
# Path of the project

Oct 2023

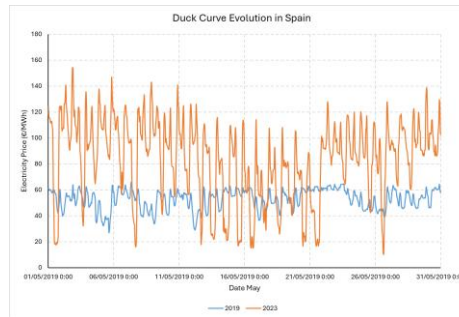
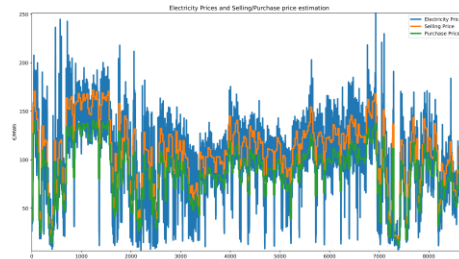


Start

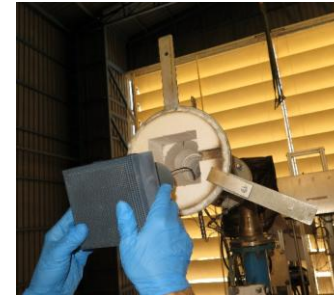
Thermodynamic Analysis:  
Evaluation of ASTERix  
concept



Grid Analysis:  
Electricity prices



Testing of Advanced  
Open Volumetric Air  
Receiver



Developing of Optical  
Sensors and AI-based  
tracking control



Jan 2025



End of 1<sup>st</sup> RP



[www.asterix-caesar.eu](http://www.asterix-caesar.eu)



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# Thank you for your attention!

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