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# Initial comments to the 2016 Draft IRP

*December, 2016*

**The Ivanpah Solar Energy  
Generating Station.**

**World's largest operating  
concentrating solar power tower  
plant located in California, USA**

# BrightSource is the World Leader in Concentrating Solar Power (CSP) Tower Technology

## Proven Track Record

Unparalleled solar thermal technical expertise combined with project development and power plant operating experience

## Strong IP Portfolio

More than 100 patents and patent applications covering solar thermal technologies, with majority related to solar field and control systems, including many utility model patents in China

## Comprehensive Engineering & Technical Support Services

- Conceptual Design of Power Plant
- Solar Field Design
- Solar Field Control System
- Solar Receiver Conceptual Design
- Commissioning and Start-up



*Ashalim, the world's tallest power tower plant (240m), now under construction in Israel's Negev desert.*

# Initial comments to the draft IRP

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- **The timelines are very challenging** with information such as scenarios and appendices yet to be issued, making it difficult to effectively comment
- **The input assumptions** appear to be dated and do not reflect the latest Expedited Bid Round CSP costs, CSP learning rates and LNG prices for CCGT and OCGT
- **CSP dispatchability needs to be accounted for within the IRP analysis.** CSP with thermal storage can substitute baseload, mid merit and peaking plant
- **The IRP base case does not recognise the social, environmental and wider economic benefits** such as:
  - zero carbon generation,
  - Localisation and jobs especially in the Northern Cape region
  - South African energy independence
- **With above adjustments CSP Tower can be competitive vs. CCGT levelised cost right now, using EPRI Modelling**

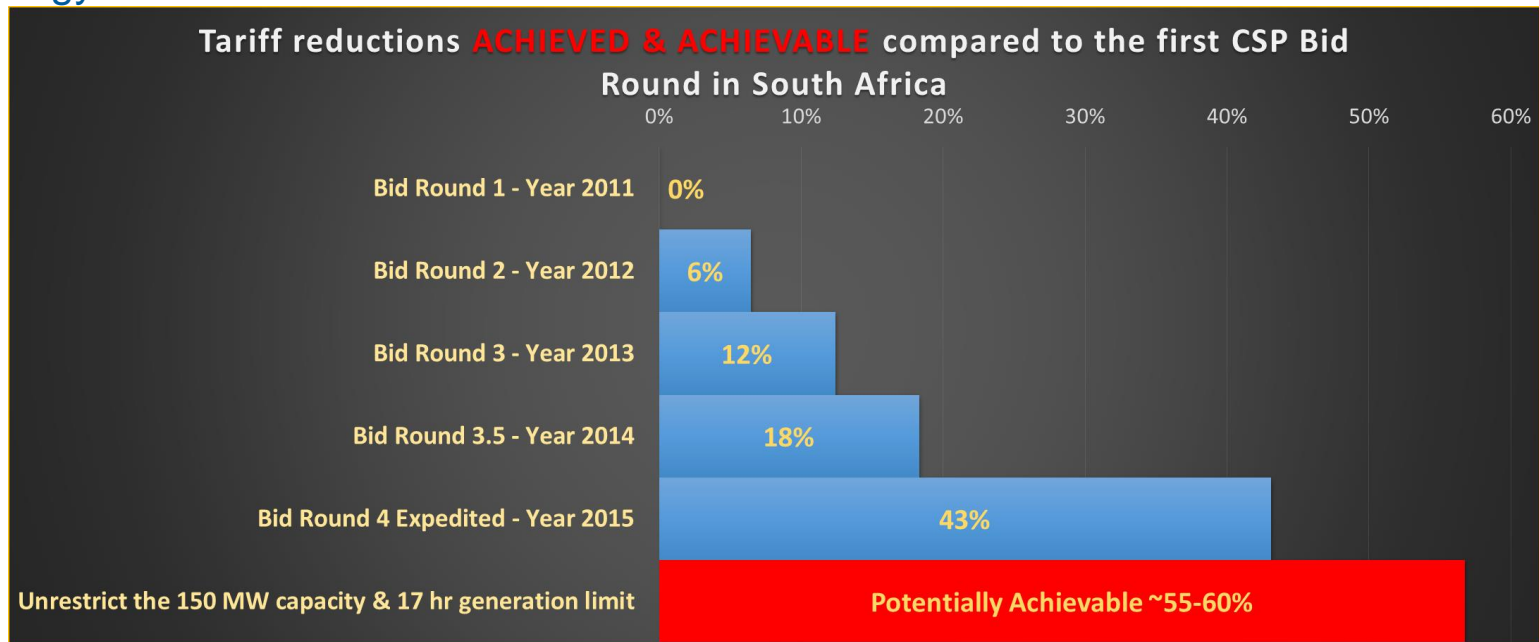


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# Input Assumptions of the IRP need amending

# IRP Base Case cost assumptions need updating

- EPRI Capex assumptions for CSP Tower appear to be dated, and do not reflect numbers used in the Expedited Bid round
- CSP learning rates achieved have been impressive. We should expect further learning curve benefits as more capacity is installed
- There is more potential for scale benefits and PPA structure, even with existing CSP technology

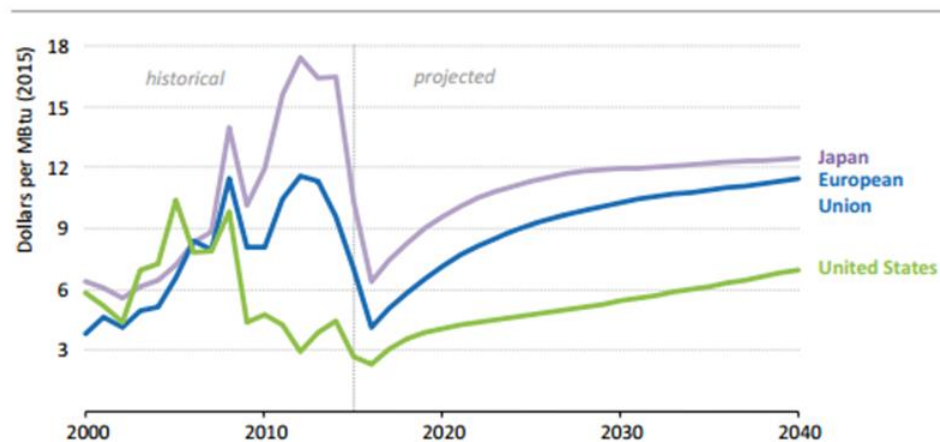


Source: Data for bid rounds 1,2,3,3.5 and 4 are based on CSIR report "Comparison of IRP assumptions with actual IPP tariffs." Potentially achievable figures based on BSE analysis, all at 2016 prices

# IRP Base Case gas assumptions could be underestimating CCGT and OCGT Levelised Cost

- EPRI modelling assumes gas prices to remain at 2015 prices for the next 35 years at R115.5/GJ
- The IEA considers that the current price is a historic low at R150/GJ and expect real terms increases in gas as follows

**Figure 1.5** ▶ Natural gas prices by region in the New Policies Scenario



Notes: US price is a wholesale price; other prices are average import prices.

Source: IEA WEO 2016, page 49

- Gas priced in US\$ and future price likely to be volatile

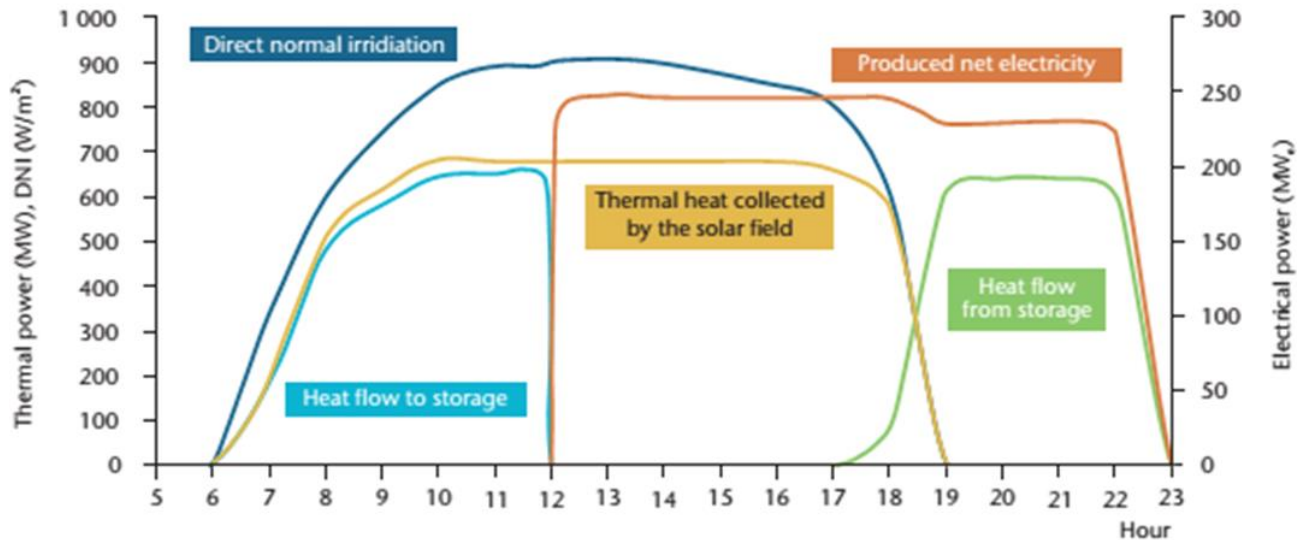


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# CSP dispatchability needs to be accounted for within the IRP analysis

# Additional benefits of CSP not accounted for in the IRP Base Case

- Thermal Energy Storage (TES) provides CSP a dispatchable capability and improves grid flexibility by providing firm system capacity with a high ramp rate and acceptable part-load operation
- With TES CSP can generate electricity on demand (peak hours) – under unrestricted operating schedule it can operate in base load and also backup PV/Wind variations avoiding integration costs (i.e. ancillary services) and the need for some CCGT capacity



Source: Technology Roadmap EIA 2014



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**The IRP base case does not recognise  
the social, environmental and wider  
economic benefits**

# Additional benefits of CSP not accounted for in the IRP

- Carbon costs in the IRP are considered to be zero which penalises CSP
- The IRP and EPRI model assumptions don't take account of the environmental, health and wider social costs associated with fossil fuel pollution
- CSP has no fuel costs which removes commodity price risk, foreign exchange risks and should save South African foreign reserves that would be needed to import LNG
- CSP provides more localisation, job creation and other economic multipliers especially in the Northern Cape region – IEP 2016: *“CSP creates the most jobs in terms of capital investment and operating expenditure”*
- In an uncertain future including CSP in the technology mix has “option” benefits for South Africa



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# CSP Tower could be competitive vs. CCGT levelised cost right now, using EPRI Modelling

# LCOE of CSP Tower could be competitive vs. CCGT, using EPRI Modelling

- Once the CSP plant capacity and generation constraints are removed we expect CSP could be competitive with LNG fed CCGT in South Africa
- Unlike wind and PV, CSP with storage is dispatchable and does not require firming backup. CSP as a standalone technology can efficiently substitute some of the considerable growth in capacity from wind, PV and CCGT
- With the continued technology learning rates, CSP cost should continue to fall unlike other more mature technologies
- Initial modelling suggests:
  - Making the above changes to CSP cost assumptions and adding in known learning benefits reduces CSP levelised cost from 2.3 R/kwh to between **1.7- 1.3 R/kWh**. Future learning likely to bring further cost reductions.
  - Updating gas prices increases CCGT levelised cost from 1.2R/kWh to 1.7R/kWh
- **Hence we believe CSP can compete with CCGT**

# Summary

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- **The timelines are very challenging** with information such as scenarios and appendices yet to be issued, making it difficult to effectively comment
- **The input assumptions** appear to be dated and do not reflect the latest Expedited Bid Round CSP costs, CSP learning rates and LNG prices for CCGT and OCGT
- **CSP dispatchability needs to be accounted for within the IRP energy analysis.** CSP with thermal storage can substitute baseload, mid merit and peaking plant
- **The IRP base case does not recognise the social, environmental and wider economic benefits** such as:
  - zero carbon generation,
  - Localisation and jobs especially in the Northern Cape region
  - South African energy independence and Option value
- With above adjustments **CSP Tower can be competitive vs. CCGT levelised cost right now**, using EPRI Modelling and should be included in the IRP 2016 Energy Mix



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