

Schneider Electric Manufacturing Plant

Innovation in solar generating stations



PROJECT AT A GLANCE

Project Type:
Solar field

Location:
Smyrna, Tennessee

Commissioned:
June 2010

Project Size:
5.2 MW

Energy Generated:
1.3 million kWh per year

Applications:

- GT500 inverters (two)
- Power-Zone™ house
- Combiner box
- Oil-filled transformers
- PowerLogic™ meter CM4000
- Metal-clad switchgear
- QED-2 switchboard



With solar generation one of the most environmentally acceptable renewable energy sources, Schneider Electric required a research station to test the latest developments in photoelectric power generation. In 2011, Schneider Electric unveiled the 1 MW dual-voltage solar farm spanning six acres of its manufacturing plant in Smyrna, Tennessee. This was the first dual-voltage solar farm in the United States with the ability to operate at both 1,000 Vdc and 600 Vdc, providing an opportunity for more efficient solar farm operation and enabling Schneider Electric to further its research and testing of renewable energy. The solar farm is the third in the state of Tennessee at 1 MW and generates approximately 1.3 million kWh of electricity annually or 25 percent of the facility's total use.

“The issues around reliability and availability of energy sources, coupled with today’s rising energy costs, are driving increased awareness for the benefits of alternative energy sources,” said Jeff Drees, U.S. Country President. “Schneider Electric sees renewable energy sources — particularly solar energy — as a key driver in addressing today’s energy challenge. Through this investment, we hope to serve as an example for other businesses and provide a test bed for the development and design of solutions that enhance the deployment of renewable power.”

The installation qualified for a 30 percent federal tax credit and the TVA Generation Partners Program, which offers a premium on all solar-generated power that Schneider Electric sells back to TVA. Additionally, the project includes Schneider Electric™ solar inverters, transformers, panelboards, 27 kV switchgear, Juno™ by Schneider Electric LED products, and other custom engineered and manufactured devices in the field.



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