



---

## Press Release

---

# **Santander and BP Solar launch the largest European investment project in photovoltaic solar energy**

- **The project is to be offered by Santander to private investors, who will be the owners of the photovoltaic solar power plants. BP Solar is to manage the construction and maintenance of the plants.**
- **Up to of 278 photovoltaic solar power plants are to be built in Spain, with total installed capacity of 18-25MW. This will double the capacity of generation of photovoltaic solar power currently existing in Spain.**
- **The construction of the plants is to begin in May 2006 and is expected to conclude in December 2007, and may reach a total investment of 160 million Euros.**
- **The project is expected to avoid the emission of up to 37,500 tons of CO2.**

**Madrid, April 20th, 2006.** Santander and BP Solar are to jointly carry out the largest project of investment in photovoltaic solar power seen to date in Europe. The agreement reached between the two companies will allow for the construction of up to 278 photovoltaic solar power installations in Spain with total capacity of 18-25MWp. This will double the capacity of generation of photovoltaic solar power currently existing in Spain. The construction of the plants is to begin in May 2006 and is expected to conclude in December 2007. It would involve a total of 160 million euros in investment. Each PV plant will have an average power between 90kW and 100kW.

The alliance of Santander and BP Solar makes it possible to combine the strength of the leading financial group in the Euro Zone and Latin America with one of the leading companies in design and manufacturing of solar modules. BP Solar is owned by BP Group, one of the world's leading energy companies. The characteristics of these two partners are the reason for the magnitude of this kind of project and allow for the participation of private investors in the financing of the project.

BP Solar is to manage the construction of the installations, through a series of turnkey contracts that cover the whole of the process: from the manufacturing of the solar panels in the company's manufacturing facilities, to the installation and maintenance of the plants. Santander is to set up and finance the companies owning the different photovoltaic solar power plants. The shareholder structure of each of these companies will consist entirely of private investors that have already expressed to Santander Private Bank their interest in participating in projects of investment in renewable energies.

The plants will sell the energy to the nearest electricity distributors at tariffs set up by the government in accordance with the Spanish legislation (Real Decreto 436/2004).

### **Santander External Communication**

Ciudad Grupo Santander – Edif. Arrecife, Planta 2  
28660 Boadilla del Monte (Spain) Telf. 34 91 289 5211 - Fax 34 91 257 10 39

### **BP Solar External Communication**

Anna Rivers-Moore •  
[Anna.Rivers-Moore@bp.com](mailto:Anna.Rivers-Moore@bp.com)



### **Information for the editors**

- The Royal Decree 436/2004 legislation promotes the use of photovoltaic solar power by establishing a tariff of 575 percent of the average electricity tariff, which is guaranteed for a period of 25 years. The Renewable Energy Plan (*Plan de Energías Renovables*, PER) for 2005-2010, approved in August 2005 by the Council of Ministers, aims to cover 12 percent of domestic energy consumption in 2010 with renewable energies. The plan establishes a target to achieve an installed capacity of 400MWp in photovoltaic solar power by 2010.
- Photovoltaic solar power is a reliable green energy with a predictable capacity of electricity generation. Due to these characteristics, it is in great demand, with rates of expansion of 30 percent registered in the last years, although it still accounts for a small part of the whole of energy production.
- The project presented by Santander and BP Solar is part of a series of initiatives promoted by the private sector within the context of the Kyoto Protocol, and calls for the reduction of the total amount of greenhouse gases emitted in Spain. It aims to substitute non-renewable installed power with installed power drawn on renewable sources of energy known as “zero-emission energy”. Average production per year of 35,000MWh is forecast for the whole of the project. This would achieve a reduction of up to 37,500 tons of equivalent emitted CO<sub>2</sub> per year.
- Spain is one of the most attractive countries with regard to the development of this type of energy, as it has the greatest amount of available sunshine in Europe. This circumstance has put Spain at the forefront of this technology, with companies like BP Solar, whose European headquarters are located in Tres Cantos (Madrid). Spain is the fourth largest manufacturer in the world of solar-power technology and exports 80 percent of this output to Germany.
- **Santander** is the leading bank in the Euro Zone by market capitalization and one of the largest worldwide. Founded in 1857, it has 809 billion euros in assets, 961 billion euros in managed funds, over 66 million customers, 129,000 employees, 10,200 offices and is present in 40 countries. It is the leading financial group in Spain and Latin America, and carries out significant business activity in Europe, especially in the United Kingdom through Abbey, as well as in Portugal, where it is the third largest financial group. It is the European leader in consumer finance through Santander Consumer Finance, present in Germany, Italy, Spain and another nine European countries. In 2005, Santander recorded 6.22 billion euros in net attributable profit, up 72.5 percent from the preceding year.
- **BP Solar** is a global company with over 2200 employees focused on harnessing the sun's energy to produce solar electricity. This includes the design, manufacture and marketing of quality solar electric systems for a wide range of applications in the residential, commercial and industrial sectors. With over 30 years of experience and installations in over 160 countries, BP Solar is one of the world's largest solar companies and has manufacturing facilities in the U.S., Spain, India and Australia. BP Solar is part of BP, one of the world's leading energy companies.

To learn more, visit [www.bpsolar.com](http://www.bpsolar.com)

- **BP Group.** BP's main activities are the exploration for and production of crude oil and natural gas; oil refining, marketing, supply and transportation; and manufacturing and marketing of petrochemicals. BP has a growing activity in gas, power and alternative energy businesses. It is the world's second largest oil and gas company producing around three per cent of the oil and gas consumed in the world through operations in 100 countries and more than 96,000 employees.

#### **Santander External Communication**

Ciudad Grupo Santander – Edif. Arrecife, Planta 2  
28660 Boadilla del Monte (Spain) Telf. 34 91 289 5211 - Fax 34 91 257 10 39

#### **BP Solar External Communication**

Anna Rivers-Moore •  
[Anna.Rivers-Moore@bp.com](mailto:Anna.Rivers-Moore@bp.com)



To learn more, visit [www.bp.com](http://www.bp.com).

**About BP and BP Solar**

BP Solar is a global company with over 2200 employees focused on harnessing the sun's energy to produce solar electricity. This includes the design, manufacture and marketing of quality solar electric systems for a wide range of applications in the residential, commercial and industrial sectors. With over 30 years of experience and installations in over 160 countries, BP Solar is one of the world's largest solar companies and has manufacturing facilities in the U.S., Spain, India and Australia.

BP's main activities are the exploration for and production of crude oil and natural gas; oil refining, marketing, supply and transportation; and manufacturing and marketing of petrochemicals. BP is the world's second largest oil and gas company producing around three per cent of the oil and gas consumed in the world through operations in 100 countries and more than 96,000 employees. BP has a growing activity in gas, power and alternative energy businesses and in 2005, BP announced plans to invest \$8 billion over 10 years in a new business called BP Alternative Energy, which aims to extend significantly BP's capabilities in solar, wind power, hydrogen power and gas-fired power generation.

**Santander External Communication**

Ciudad Grupo Santander – Edif. Arrecife, Planta 2  
28660 Boadilla del Monte (Spain) Telf. 34 91 289 5211 - Fax 34 91 257 10 39

**BP Solar External Communication**

Anna Rivers-Moore •  
[Anna.Rivers-Moore@bp.com](mailto:Anna.Rivers-Moore@bp.com)