

Characterizing and Evaluating a Candidate Project Site for Solar Thermal

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1 PM MT / 3 PM ET



Steve Schell
Schell Innovation

Brought to you by the Heliostat Consortium Resource, Training, and Education (RTE) topic area

BIO

Steve Schell has developed and commercialized new technologies for over 25 years, with more than half that time spent in the solar energy industry. A mechanical engineer by background, Steve has served in technical leadership roles at eSolar, Amonix, and most recently at Heliogen, where he was CTO and Chief Scientist from 2018-2024. While at Heliogen, Steve led the development and demonstration of a computer vision based closed-loop tracking control system for heliostats, the deployment of the company's test facility, two generations of high-performance heliostats, and the conceptual design and front-end engineering of a 5 MW power plant utilizing a high temperature particle receiver and supercritical carbon dioxide Brayton cycle power block.

Currently, Steve consults for HelioCon and other CSP research efforts, and is involved with two start-up companies.

ABSTRACT

HelioCon has led the development of a guideline document for the characterization and evaluation of potential project sites for solar thermal fields (CSP or SHIP). This document is intended to provide high-level but useful guidance to project developers interested in solar thermal projects, making them aware of many of the important site-related issues that should be investigated early in the project life cycle.

In this seminar, Steve will provide an overview of this guideline document, which we anticipate being published in the summer of 2026.



U.S. Department of Energy

HelioCon

Heliostat Consortium for
Concentrating Solar-Thermal Power

HelioStat Consortium Seminar series host:
Brooke Stanislawski

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