1994 Solar Power Generation

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When did solar power start?
As the U.S. and Soviet Union raced to launch satellites and spacecraft, solar energy offered an attractive way to generate power far from Earth. In 1958, the U.S. launched Vanguard 1, the first solar-powered satellite. Its radically new power system, made up of six solar panels, enabled it to remain in orbit for over six years.

Who invented solar power?
The Atlantic Richfield Company (ARCO) pioneered utility-scale solar power generation in 1982. ARCO opened a 1.1 megawatt (MW) operation in Hesperia, California, the first industrial solar power plant in the country. The company later opened a larger, 5.2 MW solar power plant in Carrizo Plain, California.

When did solar energy become a viable alternative energy source?
Back on Earth, solar energy technology continued to advance gradually through the mid-20th century but remained uncompetitive with cheap, readily available fossil fuels. This began to change with the 1970s oil crisis, as skyrocketing oil prices and uncertainty in global energy markets highlighted the need for alternative energy sources.

What was the first solar-powered satellite?
Vanguard I, the first solar-powered satellite, was launched with a 0.1 W, 100 cm 2 solar panel. 1959 - Hoffman Electronics creates a 10% efficient commercial solar cell, and introduces the use of a grid contact, reducing the cell's resistance. 1960 - Hoffman Electronics creates a 14% efficient solar cell.

DOE research and development efforts have accelerated solar industry progress by an estimated 12 years. This timeline features the key innovations that have advanced the solar industry in the United ...

Far from depending on some wondrous breakthrough, the experts say, Enron can offer commercially competitive solar power by inexpensively mass-producing solar panels, and then ...

As the invention was brought out it made solar cells as a prominent utilization for power generation for satellites. Satellites orbit the Earth, thus making solar cells a prominent source for power generation ...

Overview1800s1900-19291930-19591960-19791980-19992000-20192020sIn the 19th century, it was observed that the sunlight striking certain materials generates detectable electric current - the photoelectric effect. This discovery laid the foundation for solar cells. Solar cells have gone on to be used in many applications. They have historically been used in situations where electrical power from the grid was unavailable. As the invention was brought out it made solar cells as a prominent utilization for power

generation for ...

The company later opened a larger, 5.2 MW solar power plant in Carrizo Plain, California. The plant in Carrizo Plain operated from 1983 to 1994 and had one of the largest photovoltaic arrays ...

The papers cover a wide range of solar technologies from low temperature solar ponds and desalinization to high temperature concentrators for space applications and central receivers for ...

Solar One, a 10-megawatt central receiver demonstration project, was first operated and established the feasibility of power tower systems. In 1988, the final year of operation, the system achieved an ...

From the earliest days of solar-powered satellites to modern rooftop arrays and utility-scale solar farms, this is the complete history of solar energy--and a look at its exciting potential in ...

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