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24-MW Solar Power Plant in Italy Completed

Rome, Italy [RenewableEnergyWorld.com]

SunRay Renewable Energy and SunPower Corp. announced that the 24-megawatt (MW) Montalto di Castro solar photovoltaic (PV) power plant, the largest in Italy, has been completed and is transmitting electricity to Italy's national electric grid. The two companies announced the completion of the system at an interactive conference on renewable sources, Re-Event, being held this week in Rome.

The plant, located in Italy's Viterbro province, Lazio, was connected to the grid on November 30, several weeks ahead of schedule. This project is the first phase of a planned 85-MW development that is expected to be fully operational in 2010.

Construction of the plant was completed in eight months and required more than 250 workers and the services of 10 skilled local companies employed for civil, mechanical and electrical services. [SunRay](#) and [SunPower](#) jointly managed the construction of the plant.

A dedicated 150-MW substation was designed and constructed by Terna SpA. A visitor center is also planned for the site and it is expected to will provide education on solar power and other renewable energy sources.

"Completing construction of Italy's largest PV park several weeks ahead of schedule is a testament to the professionalism of the entire installation team," said Yoram Amiga, CEO of SunRay Group. "More than 200 local workers were trained in the skills of advanced PV technology, and they have surpassed our expectations and demonstrated creativity and resourcefulness in driving the project forward. We are proud of the way that the entire community swung behind this project and ensured its successful on-time completion."

The 80-hectare Montalto di Castro plant uses 78,720 high-efficiency SunPower solar panels, the most efficient panels commercially available, installed on a SunPower Tracker system.