Trinasolar

CASE STUDY

MARRIOTT TOWNE PLACE SUITES
WASHINGTON, USA

OVERVIEW:

The Marriott Towne Place Suites began looking into a solar photovoltaic energy system in 2013, as a part of participating in the military's mission expanding the use of renewable energy and as a way to cut costs and maintain affordable rates for its guests.

LOCATION
Washington, D.C.

TYPE
Ground Mount

SIZE
706kW

PRODUCT
DUOMAX

 # OF MODULES
2,830 DUOMAX panels

COMPLETION DATE
December 2014

SITUATION

The Marriott Towne Place Suites, Marriott's 2012 "Hotel of the Year", is located across Old Alexander Ferry Road from Joint Base Andrews. A large segment of the hotel's guest base is military personnel on temporary duty at the base. The hotel prides itself on providing a "home away from home" and an inviting atmosphere to support the troops. The hotel began looking into a solar photovoltaic energy system in 2013, as a part of participating in the military's mission expanding the use of renewable energy, and, as a way to cut costs and maintain affordable rates for its guests. The owners of the Towne Place Suites had an unused plot of land on their property next to the hotel. They discussed a number of ways they could put this asset to good use, and they decided on solar energy, The Towne Place Suites is now the first Maryland hotel to be nearly 100 percent solar-powered.

BREAKTHROUGH TECHNOLOGY

The hotel's 706 kw system is powered by 2,830 Trina Solar's DUOMAX panels. The DUOMAX panels' higher voltage capacities enabled the installation of longer panel strings, reducing overall balance of system costs through the reduced need for additional inverters and junction boxes. This project marks the first of many installations of Trina Solar's Dou-Max panels in North America.

Trina Solar's DUOMAX panels are made of two layers of 2.5mm thin heat-strengthened glass. This replaces the conventional glass and back sheet structure. The Duo-Max module is a highly reliable and durable PV product that maintains high performance in even the harshest environments.

"Working with Trina Solar was wonderful", said Jeff Wolfe, CEO of Heliofire, the project developer. "They made sure we had the right product available at the right time. They really were an advocate for us."

"We decided right from the start we were going to use the very best equipment we could get," said John Miller, one of the hotel's owners. "That's why we have Trina Solar's panels."

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OVERCOMING ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES

This project is the first North American solar project to be powered with Trina Solar's DUOMAX panels. The panels were chosen for their anti-PID (potential induced degradation) feature, ensuring the solar system can withstand the high heat and humidity of the local climate.

RESULTS

The solar array, located on four acres adjacent to the hotel, will generate enough electricity to offset almost all of the electricity needed by the hotel. With additional conservation measures in place soon, the hotel will likely be 100 percent solar powered in the near future. The system is expected to increase the value of the hotel by as much as $2 million and full system payback within eight years.

