

What is the current design of Caltech's space solar power project?

Caltech's vision for a constellation of sail-like solar panels that unfurl once they reach orbit is the current design, according to Sergio Pellegrino, Joyce and Kent Kresa Professor of Aerospace and Civil Engineering and co-director of SSPP. The flexible power transmission arrays are essential to this design.

How did the Caltech effort start?

The Caltech effort to develop space solar power began after philanthropist Donald Bren learned about the potential for space-based solar energy manufacturing as a young man after reading an article in Popular Science magazine.

What is the goal of the Space Solar Power Project (SSPP)?

The Space Solar Power Project (SSPP) aims to harvest solar power in space and transmit it to the Earth's surface. Wireless power transfer was demonstrated on March 3 by MAPLE, one of three key technologies being tested by the Space Solar Power Demonstrator (SSPD-1), the first space-borne prototype from Caltech's Space Solar Power Project (SSPP).

Could Caltech be a component-led revolution?

Bren tasked Caltech with making solar power feasible and economically viable. The Institute approached this by asking Hajimiri, Pellegrino, and Atwater's teams to invent new technologies, materials, and manufacturing processes. 'You could characterize our work at Caltech as a component-led revolution,' Atwater says.

What is space solar power?

Space solar power is a way to tap into the practically unlimited supply of solar energy in outer space. Unlike solar panels on Earth, space solar power is constantly available without being subjected to day and night cycles, seasons, and cloud cover, potentially yielding eight times more power.

Why did Bren join Caltech?

Intrigued by the potential for space solar power, Bren approached Caltech's then-president Jean-Lou Chameau to discuss the creation of a space-based solar power research project. In 2013, Bren and his wife, Brigitte Bren, a Caltech trustee, agreed to make the donation to fund the project.

In January 2023, the Caltech Space Solar Power Project (SSPP) is poised to launch into orbit a prototype, dubbed the Space Solar Power Demonstrator (SSPD), which will test several key ...

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Though solar energy provides a sliver of the world's electricity now, it is on a trajectory to expand

rapidly. Solar power installations are surging globally and in the U.S. as this method to generate renewable electricity becomes cost ...

solar power station with the goal of producing a space vehicle capable of generating approximately 900kW of RF power from a flexible, foldable and rollable 60 m x 60 ...

Intrigued by the potential for space solar power, in 2011, Bren approached Caltech's then-president Jean-Lou Chameau to discuss the creation of a space-based solar power ...

A space solar power prototype that was launched into orbit in January is operational and has demonstrated its ability to wirelessly transmit power in space and to beam detectable ...

Caltech's Space Solar Power Demonstrator (SSPD-1) carried a collection of 32 different types of PV cells to assess those best suited to the space environment. In the so-called "ALBA" experiment, the aim was to test ...

Mutual power optimization of photovoltaics and wireless power transfer for space based solar power. 2022 IEEE/MTT-S International Microwave Symposium. (pdf) Bauser, H.C. (2022).

This paper describes Caltech's Space Solar Power Demonstration One (SSPD-1) payload and upcoming mission on Momentus Space Vigoride 5. SSPD-1 is comprised of three experiments each of which ...

Wireless power transfer was demonstrated by MAPLE, one of three key technologies being tested by the Space Solar Power Demonstrator (SSPD-1), the first space ...

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One year ago, Caltech's Space Solar Power Demonstrator (SSPD-1) launched into space to demonstrate and test three technological innovations that are among those ...

SSPD-1 was launched in January 2023 as part of the California Institute of Technology's (Caltech) Space Solar Power Project (SSPP), the primary goal of which is to harvest solar power in space and ...

As part of the Caltech Space Solar Power project, we are designing ultralight, flexible large-scale photovoltaics suited for the space environment. Ultralight Photovoltaics. For space solar power ...

Space solar power provides a way to tap into the practically unlimited supply of solar energy in outer space, where the energy is constantly available without being subjected to the cycles of day and night, seasons, and ...

He joined the Faculty of the California Institute of Technology (Caltech) in 1998, where he is Bren Professor

of Electrical Engineering and Medical Engineering, Director of Caltech Holistic ...

Caltech Smart Grid Solutions. When energy supply is less predictable, energy demand needs to be more flexible to avoid overtaxing the grid. Smart scheduling--pulling power from the grid when renewable energy is ...

The spaceborne testbed demonstrated the ability to beam power wirelessly in space; it measured the efficiency, durability, and function of a variety of different types of solar cells in space; and gave a real-world trial of the ...

Caltech's Space Solar Power Demonstrator (SSPD-1) has successfully completed its mission, testing crucial technologies for harvesting and beaming solar power from space to Earth,...

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