

Member Spotlight: Donald Osborn

Donald E. Osborn is President of Spectrum Development Energy Inc., a leading PV engineering, procurement and construction (EPC) company and is one of the most respected professionals in the PV industry. Osborn founded and led the solar programs of the Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) from 1991 - 2002. The SMUD Solar Program was responsible for the first broad commercialization of grid-connected PV in the US and led to the California Solar Initiative and the growth of today's PV market for which Osborn is known as the "Father of US Grid-connected PV Commercialization". Prior to joining SMUD, he was the Director, U of AZ Solar & Energy Research Facility; Associate Director, Arizona Solar Energy Commission; Director, Arizona WSUN; and Research Engineer, Helio Associates. A member of ASES for over 40 years, he is the former Policy Chairman, former Board member, and Fellow of ASES. He is the recipient of the 2000 ASES Abbot Award for "significant and sustained contributions to the field of solar energy" and of the 2001 International Energy Globe Award. Osborn is also the former Chair of the Solar Electric Power Association, and former Board member of the Solar Energy Industries Association (SEIA). He was featured in *Switching To Solar*, By Bob Johnstone (Chapter 9 "Glorious SMUD", 2011, Prometheus Books). He is

living in his third solarized home. www.SpectrumEnergyDev.com

Osborn presented his first professional paper 40 years ago this summer at the 1976 joint ASES (then AS/ISES) and ISES Conference in Winnipeg and was Co-Chairman of the 1980 ASES Annual Conference in Phoenix. He says, "ASES has been a welcoming and pivotal home for my development in the solar field. As a young engineer it gave me first hand exposure to the diverse RD&D activities in solar and direct interaction with such a broad range of solar professionals. I owe much to ASES for helping to give me such a solid start in the solar field and to the friends and colleagues in ASES who helped and mentored that young engineer." According to Osborn, "ASES stills fulfills that critical role of the meeting ground for researchers, students, solar professionals and advocates to share the broad range of solar development, performance, and new frontiers in a non-commercial, free exchange of ideas and results not found elsewhere. ASES has enabled solar's development through the decades ushering in the Solar Century."

Come hear Don as our keynote speaker at our SOLAR 2016 Awards Banquet July 12 in San Francisco.



"With SOLAR 2016 coming up I was reminded that my first Professional paper and ASES Conference was 40 years ago this year, the Joint ISES/ASES Solar Conference in Winnipeg in 1976!!! What a ride."



Secretary of State Ross McFarland and Greg Stolman (right) of the Solar Ribbon planting committee use a Fremont lens to concentrate the sun's rays and cut the ribbon's opening-day ribbon. Helping to already the ribbon is Don Osborn, co-chairman of the event, which is at the Civic Plaza through Thursday.



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