

Geothermal Plant Generates Clean, Sustainable, Reliable Power



The San Jacinto-Tizate geothermal plant replaces some costly fossil-fuel imports and offers a significant annual reduction in CO₂ emissions.

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The San Jacinto-Tizate geothermal powerplant in Nicaragua powers 15% of Nicaragua’s electricity needs. It is located on the 9,800-acre San Jacinto-Tizate geothermal area, considered one of the most productive volcanic reservoirs in Latin America. “San Jacinto-Tizate geothermal project is benefiting Nicaragua by providing the country with clean, renewable power at lower cost than imported fuel oil,” says Tono Rodriguez, Latin America head of operations for Ram Power. “This benefits the citizens of Nicaragua by expanding the access to power while reducing costs.”

Polaris Energy Nicaragua (PENSA), a wholly owned subsidiary of Ram Power, developed the project with an international team before stepping into the role of operator. PENSA selected POWER Engineers as its powerplant engineer.

POWER Engineers completed the design, construction documentation and commissioning for the first of two Fuji 36-MW turbine plants in 2011, with operation beginning in 2012. A few months later, POWER returned to Nicaragua to guide the installation of the second Fuji 36-MW turbine, which brought the total project output capacity to 72-MW net. ■

Association Touts Standardized Method for Measuring Sustainability

The classification of sustainability practices has improved considerably since the introduction of Envision™, a standardized framework developed by the Institute for Sustainable Infrastructure (ISI) and the Zofnass Program for Sustainable Infrastructure at the Harvard Graduate School of Design. Envision™ improves a project’s sustainability performance from technical, social, environmental and economic perspectives. Envision™ allows owners and designers to be publicly recognized for collaborating with communities and for using a life-cycle and restorative approach to infrastructure projects.

POWER Engineers’ President Jack Hand says, “Every project that comes across our desks should be looked at with respect to creating a globally sustainable environment. Envision is one way we measure and improve our sustainable practices.”

POWER Engineers is a charter member of ISI. To learn more about ISI, visit: sustainableinfrastructure.org