



July 2016

**Dubai receives new  
round of metro offers**

The Roads & Transport Authority has received new final offers from the two shortlisted bidding groups for the deal to design and build the metro link to the Expo 2020 site.

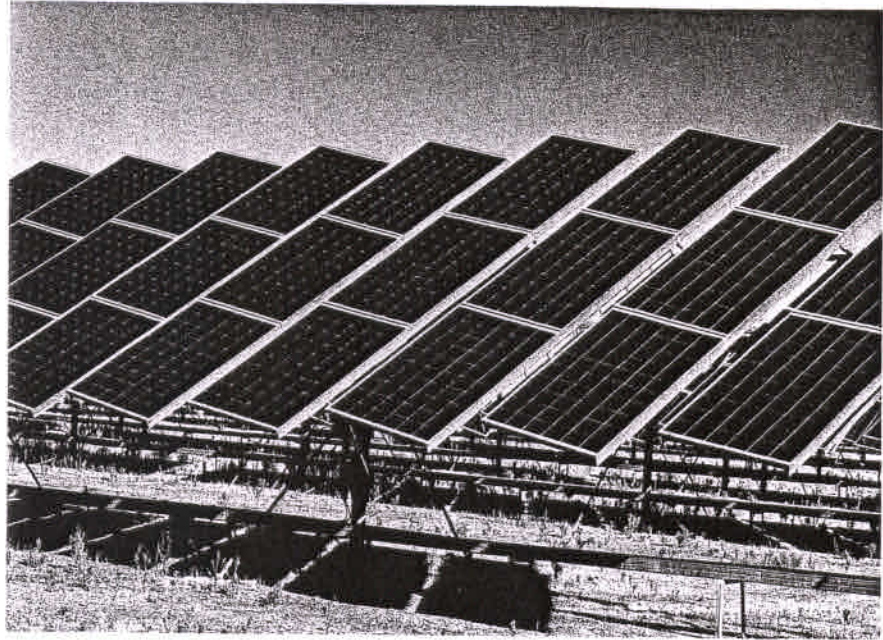
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**Dubai transport authority  
tenders rail masterplan study**

Dubai has invited firms to bid by early July for the study to update its rail masterplan. The firms invited are Aecom (US); Arup (UK); Atkins (UK); Aurecon (local office); Mott MacDonald (UK); Parsons (US); RMC (local); Sys- tra (France); and WSP Parsons Brinckerhoff (Canada-based).

# POWER & WATER

By pushing ahead with a concentrated solar power project, Dubai is progressing its strategic plan to further diversify its quickly growing solar energy portfolio



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## Dubai widens renewables mix

**T**he decision to integrate concentrated solar power (CSP) into Dubai's ambitious 5,000MW Mohammed bin Rashid al-Maktoum solar park illustrates the emirate's commitment to diversifying its energy mix.

With Dubai Electricity & Water Authority (Dewa) having tendered more than 1,000MW of photovoltaic (PV) solar to date, the decision to move ahead with a CSP scheme may seem surprising to many. Most other solar markets have developed the opposite way, moving from initial CSP schemes to PV solar. The price of PV solar has dropped by 80 per cent over the past seven years, and the direct conversion of solar energy into electricity without the need for heating technology has become the preferred option.

Dubai's decision to go for CSP is strategic. CSP has a greater potential for storage, so solar energy can be used for longer after sunlight hours. A mix of CSP and PV solar will provide a better solution for storage as new technologies are developed. The decision to push ahead with a CSP scheme also further diversifies the emirate's energy production, a key aim of the government's energy security strategy.

With 95 firms originally expressing interest in Dubai's 800MW PV solar project, it will be interesting to see how much buzz the CSP scheme generates in regional and international power markets. Dubai's next solar project will attract firms that specialise in CSP and have been left out of some of the region's recent renewable energy programmes.

*Andrew Roscoe*