

"Peter takes you on a fantastic ride through the incredible growth story of modern solar energy from 1973 to the present day. And since he started it all, you are in the driver's seat! This book is a must-read for everyone in the sector but equally educating and entertaining for everyone with an interest in technology."

Frank Wouters

Deputy Director-General, International Renewable Energy Agency

"Dr. Varadi's book is a unique contribution to the history of solar PV, an energy technology that is transforming the way we generate and use electricity. I am unaware of any other book that addresses this history as comprehensively as this book does. It also benefits greatly from having been written by a true PV pioneer who helped create a new and critically important energy industry."

Dr. Allan R. Hoffman

Former Associate and Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Utility Technologies,
U.S. Department of Energy

"This book provides a unique perspective by one of the pioneers in the PV industry who co-founded the first company that manufactured solar cells for terrestrial applications. It is a must-read for anyone who wants to know how the PV industry grew to this point and where it may be headed in the future."

Dr. Denis J. Curtin

Former Chief Operating Officer, XTAR LLC, USA

The meteoric rise of the photovoltaic (PV) industry is an incredible story. In 2013, Google's investments in PV systems totaled about half a billion dollars, and Warren Buffet, one of the famous investors, invested US\$2.5 billion in the world's largest PV system in California. These gigantic investments by major financial players were made only 40 years after the first two terrestrial PV companies, Solarex and Solar Power Corporation, were formed in the USA. Today, the worldwide capacity of operating PV electric generators equals the capacity of about 25 nuclear power plants. The PV industry is growing at an annual rate of 30%, equivalent to about five new nuclear power plants per year. This book describes how this happened and what lies ahead for PV power generation.



Peter F. Varadi, after a scientific carrier, was appointed head of Communication Satellite Corporation's chemistry department in the USA in 1968. In 1973, he co-founded Solarex Corporation, USA, to develop the utilization of solar cells for terrestrial applications. By 1983, Solarex had become the largest solar cell manufacturer in the world, with factories in four continents, when it was sold to Amoco. Dr. Varadi continued consulting for Solarex for 10 years and then for the European

Commission, World Bank, National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL), and other organizations. In recognition of his lifelong service to the global PV industry, he received in 2004 the European Photovoltaic Industry Association's John Bonda prize.

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Sun above the Horizon

Peter F. Varadi



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Peter F. Varadi



Meteoric Rise of the Solar Industry

SUN ABOVE THE HORIZON

