With their headquarters in Valencia, HORA representative in Spain BValve (formerly Schubert & Salzer Iberica) also has branch offices in Bilbao, Barcelona, Madrid, and Sevilla. Their areas of business are diverse, however the company concentrates on power plant equipment, engineering and solar power plants. “Solar energy is currently the most promising sector in Spain,” says Sven Podlech, PT regional sales manager for Europe. “The key is concentrated solar power, or CSP, which is not to be confused with the photovoltaic systems.” The CSP technology utilizes parabolic mirrors to concentrate solar energy, which is then used for a conventional steam circuit. Currently there are many investments in this technology in Spain.

Our PT and FC business units are involved in CSP projects. We supply control valves for steam and oil applications. In total, both business units received three orders in 2010 for the Andasol 3 project, a solar thermal power plant in Guadix in southern Spain, which will supply power to 20,000 residents.
In solar thermal power plants, the energy provided by the sun is used. In the solar field, specially-shaped and coated mirrors concentrate sunlight by 80-fold and direct it to an absorber pipe in the mirror’s focal line. This is a part of a closed heat transfer equipment, in which special bellows valves from the Flow Control division are used. The bellows valve is used to prevent leakage at the packing gland, so that toxic oil is not released into the atmosphere. A heat exchanger in the centrally located power plant generating unit transfers the heat to a classic circuit. Electricity is then generated by a turbine. Products from the Power Technology division are used in this circuit. According to the motto: Everything from a single source - from HORA.

At the 4th International Concentrated Solar Thermal Power Summit, BValve was chosen as the best supplier of 2010. In this category, our Spanish partners managed to prevail against Foster Wheeler/Schott Solar and Siemens.

It became clear during the summit that the market for thermal solar power plants will continue its course of dynamic development. Besides Spain, the Middle East and North Africa, the driving forces will be the USA, India and Australia.

Sven Podlech
HORA Power Technology