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# Stirling Energy Systems files for bankruptcy



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**Stirling Energy Systems Inc.** has filed for Chapter 7 bankruptcy, ending what was at one time one of the brighter stars on the Valley's solar scene.

The company filed to liquidate its assets late last week, claiming debts of between \$50 million and \$100 million and assets of between \$1 million and \$10 million.

The Scottsdale-based firm, which was developing solar dishes to provide energy, did not respond to requests for comment on calls or emails this week.

Stirling's pilot project, [Maricopa Solar](#), which opened with fanfare about 20 months ago, has been offline for a week. Officials with Salt River Project, which was getting power from the plant, said they did not have information about the facility.

Stirling was owned by NTR plc, a Dublin, Ireland-based renewable energy company that had pumped \$100 million into the technology to expand the solar dish concept designed to compete with other solar thermal technologies.

But the technology that started strong ran into myriad problems trying to come to market. It once had more than 1.8 gigawatts of solar contracts to provide power to California utilities, but ran into a lawsuit on one project, and failed to get loan guarantees from the U.S. Department of Energy, eventually [selling off the two projects](#).

NTR in August said it decided to write down its entire solar investment, about \$58 million, which contributed to the company's losses.

The bankruptcy likely will mean the loss of potential solar supply-chain jobs. Stirling had attracted two of its partners, **Tower Automotive** and **Linamar Corp.**, to the West Valley.

Tower leased space in the former [Rubbermaid facility](#) in Goodyear with plans to bring 200 jobs to

the area. [Linamar](#) was going to bring 52 jobs to Glendale.

Concentrated solar power has struggled in the past two years as prices for photovoltaic panels have dropped significantly and pushed the larger mirrored technologies back. The two projects Stirling sold in California were being converted to photovoltaic projects.

The company listed hundreds of creditors across Arizona and the U.S.

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