

# Shuttle Topography Data Inform Solar Power Analysis

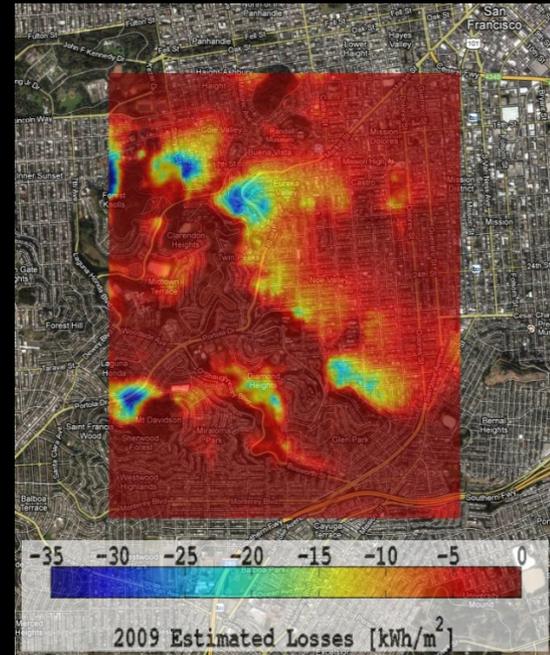


**Jet Propulsion Laboratory**

**Locus Energy LLC  
New York, NY**

## NASA Technology

- ◆ JPL partnered with the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA) to put together the first near-global elevation map of the Earth.
- ◆ Such research is useful in determining—through mapping out areas that lie in the shades of hills, for example—prime areas for installing solar panels.



## Technology Transfer

- ◆ Locus Energy LCC uses the elevation map data, which now lies in the public domain, to help its customers plan for and predict solar production throughout a given area.
- ◆ The information is used in conjunction with NASA's geostationary operational environmental satellite system (GOES).

## Benefits

- ◆ The company's Virtual Irradiance package estimates solar irradiance without using physical sensors, which can be cost-prohibitive for firms.
- ◆ Locus' data can either provide long-term placement strategies for solar installation or estimate short-term, real-time power estimates using its weather forecasting system.