The U.S. Army Office of Energy Initiatives (OEI), Fort Detrick, and the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) Energy collaborated with Ameresco, Inc. to develop a 15 megawatt (MW) alternating current (AC)* solar energy project at Fort Detrick. In February 2016, the project became fully operational, bringing on-site generation with a potential future microgrid and supply diversity to the installation.

About Fort Detrick

Fort Detrick was originally known as Detrick Field and operated as an emergency airfield between Cleveland and Washington, DC until 1938. During World War II, Camp Detrick became the site of exhaustive biological warfare research. After World War II, Camp Detrick was designated a permanent installation and became Fort Detrick with a mandate to continue biological research and remain the world’s leading research campus for biological agents that require special containment.

Project Details

• The project is located on approximately 67 acres on Fort Detrick.

• Fort Detrick consumes all energy supplied by 59,994 solar panels.

• Enough electricity is generated by the project to power about 2,720 homes per year.

• The facility is designed to serve about 12 percent of the installation’s total annual electric load requirements, improving the installation’s resilience by adding distributed generation sources and supply diversification.

• The on-site project is also microgrid capable to enhance energy resilience.

• The project provided approximately 125 jobs during construction and one full time position during operations.

• Ameresco financed, owns, operates, and maintains the project, which includes a 25-year Power Purchase Agreement and 26-year lease with the Army.

* Alternating Current (AC) is provided to consumers. Inverters convert the direct current (DC) from solar panels to AC and losses occur during conversion. \( -15 \text{ MW AC} = -18 \text{ MW DC} \).
About OEI
The OEI, under the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Installations, Energy, and Environment, serves as the Army's central program management office for the development, implementation, and oversight of privately financed, large-scale, energy projects focused on enhancing energy resilience on Army installations. OEI collaborates with industry, public utilities, and other stakeholders to implement projects that include energy generation, storage, and control capabilities. These “islandable” capabilities can support critical operations in the event of a grid outage, enabling the Army to achieve the levels of mobility and lethality to maintain its tactical and strategic edge. For more information about OEI, visit: www.oei.army.mil.

About DLA Energy
For more than 70 years, Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) Energy has provided the Department of Defense and other government agencies with comprehensive energy solutions in the most effective and efficient manner possible. DLA Energy is a primary-level field activity of the Defense Logistics Agency, and is co-located at Fort Belvoir, Virginia. DLA Energy is one of OEI's acquisition partners supporting the development of energy resilience projects.

About USACE
The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has approximately 37,000 dedicated Civilians and Soldiers delivering engineering services to customers in more than 130 countries worldwide. With environmental sustainability as a guiding principle, the disciplined Corps team is working diligently to strengthen our Nation's security by building and maintaining America's infrastructure and providing military facilities where our servicemembers train, work and live.

About Ameresco
Ameresco, Inc. is an independent provider of comprehensive energy efficiency and renewable energy solutions for facilities throughout North America, delivering long-term value through innovative systems, strategies and technologies. Ameresco’s solutions range from upgrades to facility’s energy infrastructure to the development, construction and operation of renewable energy plants combined with tailored financial solutions. Ameresco works with all customers to reduce operating expenses, upgrade and maintain facilities, stabilize energy costs, increase energy reliability and enhance the environment.

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