



Concentrated Solar Thermal: Case Studies Compendium

Capacity Building Programme (Technical Training)

under the Project:
Promoting Business Models for
Increasing Penetration and Scaling Up
of Solar Energy

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Table of Contents

Case Study 1:	
Solar Steam for Milk Pasteurization at B.G. Chitale Dairy	1
Case Study 2:	
Solar Process Heat for Silk Cocoon Reeling	3
Case Study 3:	
Solar Steam for Milk Pasteurization at Mahananda Dairy	5
Case Study 4:	
Solar Process Heat for Phosphating at SKF Technologies	7
Case Study 5:	
Solar Hot Water for Engine Component Washing at Mahindra Vehicle Manufacturers	9
Case Study 6:	
Solar Pre-heating of Boiler Feed Water for Food Processing at Tapi Foods	11
Case Study 7:	
Solar Steam for Garment Pressing at Purple Creations	13
Case Study 8:	
Solar Process Heat for Water Heating at B.S. Paper Mill	15
Case Study 9:	
Solar Steam for Laundry at Gajraj Drycleaners	17
Case Study 10:	
Solar Process Heat for Cable Vulcanisation at Hindusthan Vidyut Products	19
Case Study 11:	
Solar Process Heat for Dishwashing at Siemens Technology & Services	21
Case Study 12:	
Solar Thermal for Mushroom Cultivation at Indian Institute of Horticulture	23
References	25

Case Study 1: Solar Steam for Milk Pasteurization at B.G. Chitale Dairy

Location: Bhilawadi, Sangli, Maharashtra

Sector: Dairy

Application: Milk pasteurization / process steam

CST Technology: ARUN Dish

Year of Installation: 2009

Technology Supplier: Clique Solar Pvt. Ltd.

Overview:

B.G. Chitale is a dairy enterprise in Maharashtra engaged in milk processing and pasteurisation. The facility requires process heat in the form of steam for milk pasteurization. The thermal demand was originally met by using furnace oil. The facility installed an **ARUN dish-based concentrating solar thermal system** with a total collector area of **320 m²**, comprising **two 160 m² ARUN dishes** to supplement the existing furnace-oil-based heating system and reduce conventional fuel consumption during daytime operation.



Arun Dishes



Milk Pasteurization

System Performance and Financial Details:

Parameter	Details
System Configuration	
CST Technology	ARUN Dish
Number of Dishes	2
Collector Area	320 m ²
Application	Process steam for milk pasteurization
Steam Generation	200 kg/hour
Operating Temperature	150°C
Operating Pressure	4.5 kg/cm ²
Conventional Fuel	Furnace oil
Integration	CST + existing furnace-oil boiler
Operating Hours	Approx. 8 hours/day
Operating Days	Approx. 240 days/year
Performance	
Furnace Oil Saved	Approx. 167 litres/day
Annual Furnace Oil Savings	Approx. 40,080 litres/year
Financials	
Project Cost	₹71.98 lakh
MNRE Subsidy	₹24 lakh
Annual Fuel-Cost Savings	₹20.84 lakh/year
IRR with Subsidy	21.04%
Payback with Subsidy	3 years 3 months
IRR without Subsidy	12.06%
Payback without Subsidy	6 years 11 months
Operational Experience	
System Status	Operational; components reported in good condition
Key O&M Observation	Proper operator training is required for efficient operation

Case Study 2: Solar Process Heat for Silk Cocoon Reeling

Location: Selaqui, Dehradun, Uttarakhand

Sector: Textile / Sericulture

Application: Pressurised hot water for cocoon processing

CST Technology: Compound Parabolic Concentrator (CPC)

Year of Installation: May 2017

Technology Supplier: Ultra Conserve Pvt. Ltd., Mumbai

Overview:

Uttarakhand Cooperative Resham Federation (UCRF) operates under the Department of Sericulture, Government of Uttarakhand, and is engaged in the development of sericulture activities in the state. Silk reeling requires heated water ($\sim 120^{\circ}\text{C}$) for processing cooked cocoons.

Conventionally, the required heat was supplied using a **wood-fired boiler**. The facility installed **90 Compound Parabolic Concentrators (CPCs)** with a total collector area of **295.5 m²** to preheat the process water. The preheated water is then further heated to the required **120°C using the existing wood-fired boiler**. The system therefore does not replace the conventional boiler completely.



Compound Parabolic Collector field at UCRF Facility

System Performance and Financial Details

Parameter	Details
System Configuration	
CST Technology	Compound Parabolic Concentrator
Number of CPCs	90
Total Collector Area	295.5 m ²
Application	Pressurised hot water for cocoon processing
Solar-Side Process Temp.	Approx. 90°C
Operating Pressure	Approx. 1 bar
Final Process Temp.	Approx. 120°C
Heat Exchanger	Plate Heat Exchanger (PHE)
Conventional Fuel	Firewood
Conventional System	Wood-fired boiler
Operating Hours	Approx. 7–8 hours/day (daytime)
Performance	
Thermal Output	Approx. 103,000 kcal/day
Solar Contribution	Approx. 75%
Reported Fuel Reduction	More than 50%
Firewood Savings	417 kg*
Financials	
Total System Cost	₹62.30 lakh
MNRE Financial Support	₹21.25 lakh
UNDP Financial Support	₹7.08 lakh
Payback with CFA	Approx. 4.5 years
Payback without CFA	Approx. 8.3 years
Operational Experience	
Overall Performance	Satisfactory
Integration Approach	Solar preheating integrated with existing wood-fired boiler

Case Study 3: Solar Steam for Milk Pasteurisation at Mahananda Dairy

Location: Latur, Maharashtra

Sector: Dairy

Application: Milk pasteurization / process steam

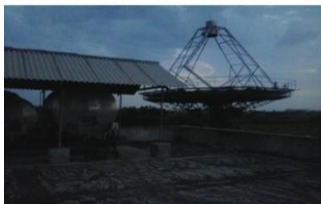
CST Technology: ARUN Dish

Year of Installation: 2006

Technology Supplier: Clique Solar

Overview:

Mahananda Dairy is engaged in milk processing, packing and distribution. At its Latur facility, thermal energy in the form of steam is required for milk pasteurisation and associated dairy processing operations. The dairy's process heat requirement was conventionally met using **furnace oil**. With a regular requirement for steam for pasteurisation, the facility integrated an **ARUN dish-based concentrating solar thermal system** (total collector area of **160 m²**) with its existing furnace-oil-fired boiler to reduce conventional fuel consumption.



Arun Dish

System Performance and Financial Details

Parameter	Details
System Configuration	
CST Technology	ARUN Dish
Number of Dishes	1
Collector Area	160 m ²
Application	Process steam for milk pasteurisation
Operating Temperature	120°C
Operating Pressure	2 kg/cm ²
Conventional Fuel	Furnace oil
Integration	CST + existing furnace-oil boiler
Operating Days	Approx. 270 days/year
Performance	
Furnace Oil Saved	Approx. 100 litres/day
Annual Furnace Oil Savings	Approx. 27,000 litres/year
Financials	
Project Cost	₹52 lakh
MNRE Subsidy	₹19 lakh
Annual Fuel-Cost Savings	₹14.30 lakh/year
IRR with Subsidy	25.86%
Payback with Subsidy	3 years 3 months
IRR without Subsidy	16.24%
Payback without Subsidy	5 years 2 months
Operational Experience	
System Status	Operational; components reported in good condition
Key O&M Observation	Excess solar-generated steam could not be fully utilised; operator training was identified as necessary for efficient operation

Case Study 4: Solar Process Heat for Phosphating at SKF Technologies

Location: Mysore, Karnataka

Sector: Automotive / Industrial Components

Application: Hot water for phosphating process

CST Technology: Parabolic Trough Collector

Technology Supplier: Thermax Ltd.

Overview:

SKF Technologies operates a manufacturing facility in Mysore producing sealing solutions for automotive, railway and other industrial applications. The manufacturing process includes phosphating of metal components as part of their surface treatment operations. Heat is required in the treatment tanks, with the phosphating process operating at approximately **95°C**.

Conventionally, this thermal requirement was met using diesel. SKF installed **40 parabolic trough collectors** on the terrace of the facility, each having an aperture area of **6.41 m²**, to supply solar-heated water to the process and reduce dependence on conventional fuel.



Parabolic Trough Collector



Phosphating Process

System Performance and Financial Details

Parameter	Details
System Configuration	
CST Technology	Parabolic Trough Collector
Collector Model	SolPac P60
Number of Collectors	40
Aperture Area per Collector	6.41 m ²
Total Collector Area	256.4 m ²
Installation	Rooftop / terrace
Application	Hot water for phosphating process
Solar Hot Water Temperature	Approx. 130°C
Process Temperature	Approx. 95°C
Conventional / Backup Fuel	Diesel
Integration	CST + diesel backup
Performance	
Diesel Saved	More than 14,000 litres/year
Annual Fuel-Cost Savings	Approx. ₹8.40 lakh/year
Reported Solar Water Temperature	Generally above 135°C during initial operation
Financials	
Project Cost	₹70.55 lakh
Applicable MNRE Subsidy	₹13.85 lakh
Payback Period	Approx. 5.2 years
Operational Experience	
System Status	Reported to be effectively meeting process requirements
Key Operational Feature	Diesel backup ensures process heat availability during periods of insufficient solar radiation

Case Study 5: Solar Hot Water for Engine Component Washing at Mahindra Vehicle Manufacturers

Location: Chakan, Pune, Maharashtra

Sector: Automobile Manufacturing

Application: Engine component washing and degreasing

CST Technology: ARUN Dish

Technology Supplier: Clique Solar Ltd.

Overview:

Mahindra Vehicle Manufacturers Limited operates a large automobile manufacturing facility at Chakan, Pune. The plant manufactures multi-purpose vehicles and includes dedicated washing systems for cleaning and degreasing engine components during production. Four washing machines are used for cleaning engine components, requiring pressurised hot water for the degreasing process. The facility installed **one dual-axis tracked ARUN dish**, with an aperture area of approximately **169 m²**, to supply this thermal requirement and reduce electricity consumption associated with conventional water heating.



Washing at Mahindra Vehicle Manufacturers Limited

System Performance and Financial Details

Parameter	Details
System Configuration	
CST Technology	ARUN Dish
Number of Dishes	1
Aperture Area	Approx. 169 m ²
Tracking	Dual-axis automatic tracking
Rated Output Capacity	Up to 125 kWth
Application	Engine component washing and degreasing
Number of Washing Machines Served	4
Hot Water Temperature	120°C
Water Temperature Rise	Approx. 90°C to 120°C
Daily Solar Operation	Approx. 7 hours/day
Performance	
Electricity Savings	Approx. 200,000 kWh/year
Monthly Electricity Savings	Approx. 22,500 kWh/month
Monthly Cost Savings	Approx. ₹1.80 lakh/month
Financials	
Project Cost	Approx. ₹39 lakh
Applicable MNRE Subsidy	Approx. ₹10.14 lakh
Project Cost after Subsidy	Approx. ₹28.86 lakh
Payback Period	Approx. 2.1 years
Operational Experience	
Integration	Integrated with the existing process without major modification
Space Utilisation	Elevated installation allows the area below the dish to remain in productive use

Case Study 6: Solar Pre-heating of Boiler Feed Water for Food Processing at Tapi Foods

Location: Mangarol, Surat, Gujarat

Sector: Food Processing

Application: Boiler feed-water pre-heating / process heat

CST Technology: Scheffler Dish

Year of Installation: 2006

Technology Supplier: Gadhia Solar Energy Systems Pvt. Ltd.

Overview:

Tapi Food Products, located at Mangarol in Surat, manufactures fruit-based products, including papaya tutti-frutti. The company adopted concentrating solar thermal technology for its process-heating requirement and was reported as an early food-processing industry in India to use CST. The facility uses a wood-fired boiler for steam generation in its food-processing operations. The facility installed **10 Scheffler dishes** on rooftop, with collector area of **9.3 m²** each. Rather than replacing the existing wood-fired boiler, the CST system is used to pre-heat boiler feed water before it enters the boiler.



Array of Scheffler Dishes at Tapi Foods

System Performance and Financial Details

Parameter	Details
System Configuration	
CST Technology	Scheffler Dish
Number of Dishes	10
Collector Area per Dish	9.3 m ²
Total Collector Area	93 m ²
Installation	Rooftop
Application	Boiler feed-water pre-heating
Conventional Fuel	Wood
Integration	CST + existing wood-fired boiler
Operating Hours	Approx. 5–6 hours/day
Operating Days	Approx. 300 days/year
Reported Operating Pressure	Approx. 4–5 kg/cm ²
Performance	
Annual Wood Savings	Approx. 45,000 kg/year
Financials	
Project Cost	₹10 lakh
MNRE Subsidy	₹3 lakh
Annual Fuel-Cost Savings	Approx. ₹2.25 lakh/year
IRR with Subsidy	27.13%
Payback with Subsidy	3 years 3 months
IRR without Subsidy	19.05%
Payback without Subsidy	5 years
Operational Experience	
System Status	Operational and functioning well
Major Breakdown	None reported
Key O&M Observation	Reflector mirrors were replaced after approximately 4–5 years

Case Study 7: Solar Steam for Garment Pressing at Purple Creations

Location: Baramati, Pune, Maharashtra

Sector: Textile / Garment Manufacturing

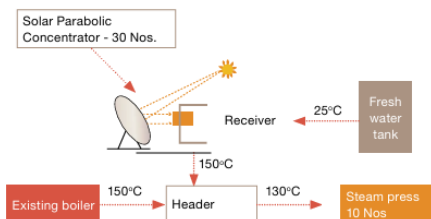
Application: Steam pressing

CST Technology: Scheffler Dish

Technology Supplier: Thermax Ltd.

Overview:

Purple Creations Pvt. Ltd. is located at the Baramati Hi-Tech Textile Park in Pune district. The company manufactures and exports children's apparel and has in-house garment production operations, including steam pressing. The garment pressing section requires a regular supply of steam which was met using commercial LPG cylinders. The facility used around **20 cylinders of 47 kg each per month**, making the pressing operation dependent on LPG availability and price. The facility installed **30 single-axis tracked Scheffler dishes**, each with an aperture area of **16 m²** each. Solar-generated steam is used during daytime operation when adequate sunlight is available, reducing the requirement for LPG-based steam generation.



Plant layout

System Performance and Financial Details

Parameter	Details
System Configuration	
CST Technology	Scheffler Dish
Number of Dishes	30
Collector Area per Dish	16 m ²
Total Collector Area	480 m ²
Tracking	Single-axis automatic tracking
Rated Output per Dish	Up to 6 kWth
Application	Steam for garment pressing
Steam Temperature	Approx. 150°C
Steam Pressure	Approx. 6 bar
Conventional Fuel	LPG
Performance	
LPG Savings	Approx. 14,000 kg/year
LPG Cylinders Avoided	Approx. 20 cylinders/month
Fuel-Cost Savings	Approx. ₹90,000/month
Financials	
Project Cost	₹90 lakh
Applicable MNRE Subsidy	₹25.92 lakh
Project Cost after Subsidy	₹64.08 lakh
Project IRR	20.66%
Equity IRR	31.53%
Payback Period	Approx. 4.8 years
Operational Experience	
Operating Period	Solar steam used during daytime when adequate sunlight is available. Reduced dependence on LPG for steam pressing

Case Study 8: Solar Process Heat for Water Heating at B.S. Paper Mill

Location: Ludhiana, Punjab

Sector: Paper Manufacturing

Application: Water heating / process heat

CST Technology: Scheffler Dish

Year of Installation: 2009

Technology Supplier: Taylormade Solar Solutions Pvt. Ltd.

Overview:

B.S. Paper Mill, located in Ludhiana, manufactures products including coloured paper, duplicating paper, stamp paper and cover paper. The facility requires approximately **8,000 litres of** heated water for different process applications within the paper-manufacturing operation. **Wood** was used as the conventional fuel for meeting this thermal requirement. The facility installed a **Scheffler dish-based concentrating solar thermal system** comprising **10 concentrators of 16 m² each**. The system is integrated with the existing process-heating arrangement and is used for boiling and heating water.



Array of Scheffler Dishes at B. S. Paper Mill

System Performance and Financial Details

Parameter	Details
System Configuration	
CST Technology	Scheffler Dish
Number of Dishes	10
Collector Area per Dish	16 m ²
Total Collector Area	160 m ²
Application	Water heating / process heat
Water Heated	Approx. 8,000 litres/day
Operating Temperature	Approx. 90–98°C
Conventional Fuel	Wood
Integration	Integrated with existing heating system
Operating Hours	Approx. 8 hours/day
Operating Days	Approx. 300 days/year
Performance	
Wood Savings	Approx. 70 kg/hour
Financials	
Project Cost	₹28.75 lakh
MNRE Subsidy	Approx. ₹8 lakh
IRR with Subsidy	24.18%
Payback with Subsidy	3 years 3 months
IRR without Subsidy	15.16%
Payback without Subsidy	5 years 3 months
Operational Experience	
Operating Period	Approx. 12 years
User Experience	Facility reported satisfaction with system performance
Current Status	System discontinued and removed due to deterioration of Supporting structure and other system components over time and Construction of an adjacent building increasing shading.

Case Study 9: Solar Steam for Laundry at Gajraj Drycleaners

Location: Ahmednagar, Maharashtra

Sector: Commercial Laundry / Dry Cleaning

Application: Steam generation for laundry

CST Technology: Scheffler Parabolic Dish

Year of Installation: 2009

Overview:

Gajraj Drycleaners is a commercial laundry facility in Ahmednagar, Maharashtra. The laundry requires **high-temperature steam** for its daily operations like washing, ironing and associated processes. The conventional thermal-energy requirement was met using **high-speed diesel (HSD)**. The facility installed a **Scheffler parabolic dish system** with a total collector area of **240 m²**. Each dish has a collector area of **16 m²** and uses **single-axis tracking** to follow the sun.



Array of Scheffler Dishes



Laundry process

System Performance and Financial Details

Parameter	Details
System Configuration	
CST Technology	Scheffler Parabolic Dish
Total Collector Area	240 m ²
Collector Area per Dish	16 m ²
Tracking	Single-axis tracking
Application	Steam generation for laundry
Steam Generation	Approx. 750–870 kg/day
Steam Temperature	Approx. 180–190°C
Steam Pressure	Approx. 7 bar
Conventional Fuel	High-Speed Diesel (HSD)
Operational Since	2009
Performance	
Estimated HSD Savings	Approx. 6,500 litres/year
Estimated Annual Cost Savings	Approx. ₹3 lakh/year
Financials	
Total System Cost	Approx. ₹23 lakh
Payback Period	Approx. 2 years
Operational Experience	
Long-Term Operation	Solar steam system reported to have been used for 6–7 years at the time of documentation
User Experience	Facility management reported significant benefits from the solar steam system

Case Study 10: Solar Process Heat for Cable Vulcanisation at Hindusthan Vidyut Products

Location: Chandigarh

Sector: Electrical Equipment / Cable Manufacturing

Application: Cable vulcanisation

CST Technology: Scheffler Dish

Year of Installation: 2012

Technology Supplier: Taylormade Solar Solutions Pvt. Ltd.

Overview:

Hindusthan Vidyut Products Ltd., established in 1956, manufactures **overhead conductors, underground cables and electro-porcelain high-tension insulators**. The facility adopted CST to reduce diesel consumption associated with the **vulcanisation of cables**, in which the cable core is immersed in a heated water tank for approximately **18–24 hours**, with the tank temperature maintained at around **85°C**.

The conventional system uses a **diesel-fired boiler**, which heats thermic fluid to approximately **125°C**. The thermic fluid is then circulated through coils to heat the water in the vulcanisation tank. The facility installed **20 Scheffler dishes of 16 m² each** which was integrated with the existing diesel-boiler-based heating system.



Array of Scheffler Dishes



Thermax Make Diesel Boiler

System Performance and Financial Details

Parameter	Details
System Configuration	
CST Technology	Scheffler Dish
Number of Dishes	20
Collector Area per Dish	16 m ²
Total Collector Area	320 m ²
Application	Cable vulcanisation
Process Tank Temperature	Approx. 85°C
Cable Treatment Duration	Approx. 18–24 hours
Diesel-Boiler Thermic Fluid Temperature	Approx. 125°C
Conventional Fuel	Diesel
Integration	CST + diesel boiler
Operating Days	Approx. 300 days/year
Performance	
Diesel Savings	Approx. 270 litres/day
Annual Diesel Savings	Approx. 81,000 litres/year
Financials	
Project Cost	₹55.08 lakh
MNRE Subsidy	₹16.52 lakh
Annual Fuel-Cost Savings	Approx. ₹36.45 lakh/year
IRR with Subsidy	78.72%
Payback with Subsidy	1 year 1 month
IRR without Subsidy	48.34%
Payback without Subsidy	1 year 7 months
Operational Experience	
System Status	Operational; components reported in good condition. No major breakdowns reported.
Key O&M Observation	Dedicated O&M staff is required for effective maintenance

Case Study 11: Solar Process Heat for Dishwashing at Siemens Technology & Services

Location: Bangalore, Karnataka

Sector: Corporate / Institutional Facility

Application: Dishwashing / process heating

CST Technology: Scheffler Dish

Year of Installation: 2007

Technology Supplier: BPS Solar

Overview:

Siemens Technology & Services Pvt. Ltd. in Bangalore forms part of Siemens Corporate Technology and includes development, research, technology and shared-service functions. The facility adopted concentrating solar thermal technology to meet thermal energy requirements associated with dishwashing.

The CST system was installed as a standalone solar process-heating application to reduce the use of **LPG** for this requirement. The facility installed **12 Scheffler dishes of 16 m² each**, corresponding to a system configuration of approximately **192 m²**.



Array of Shuffler Dishes at Siemens Technology & Services

System Performance and Financial Details

Parameter	Details
System Configuration	
CST Technology	Scheffler Dish
Number of Dishes	12
Collector Area per Dish	16 m ²
System Configuration	Approx. 192 m ²
Application	Dishwashing / process heating
Conventional Fuel Displaced	LPG
System Type	Standalone CST application
Performance	
LPG Savings	Approx. 1 cylinder/day
Annual LPG Savings	Approx. 240 cylinders/year
Overall System Performance	Good
Financials	
Project Cost	₹24 lakh
MNRE Subsidy	₹7.20 lakh
Annual Gross Savings	₹6.89 lakh/year
Annual Net Savings	₹6.28 lakh/year
IRR with Subsidy	30.66%
Payback with Subsidy	3 years 2 months
IRR without Subsidy	22.32%
Payback without Subsidy	4 years 2 months
Operational Experience	
System Status	Operational; components reported in good condition
Key O&M Observation	System was reported to be properly maintained, with no major operational problems or breakdowns noted

Case Study 12: Solar Thermal for Mushroom Cultivation at Indian Institute of Horticulture

Location: Hessarghatta, Bangalore, Karnataka

Sector: Horticulture / Agro-processing

Application: Pasteurisation of paddy straw for mushroom cultivation

CST Technology: Scheffler Dish

Year of Installation: 2011

Technology Supplier: Unisun Technologies, Bangalore

Overview:

The Indian Institute of Horticulture at Hessarghatta, Bangalore has multiple research divisions, including a dedicated **Mushroom Cultivation Division**. The institute installed a concentrating solar thermal system on the rooftop of its mushroom cultivation laboratory to support thermal processing requirements.

Process Heat Requirement

Mushroom cultivation requires **pasteurisation of paddy straw** before use as a growing substrate. The facility uses a **42 m² Scheffler dish system** installed at the rooftop to pasteurise approximately **100 kg of straw per batch/operation**. Prior to installation of the solar thermal system, this thermal requirement was met using **electricity**.



Scheffler Dish and Heat Receiver at IIHR

System Performance and Financial Details

Parameter	Details
System Configuration	
CST Technology	Scheffler Dish
Number of Dishes	3
Collector Configuration	$2 \times 16 \text{ m}^2 + 1 \times 10 \text{ m}^2$
Total Collector Area	42 m^2
Installation	Rooftop
Application	Paddy straw pasteurisation for mushroom cultivation
Straw Pasteurised	Approx. 100 kg per operation
Operating Temperature	Approx. 85–100°C
Operating Pressure	Approx. 4–6 kg/cm ²
Conventional Energy Source	Electricity
System Type	Standalone CST system
Operating Hours	Approx. 3–4 hours/day
Operating Days	Approx. 60 days/year
Performance	
Electricity Savings	Approx. 1,440 kWh/year
Financials	
Project Cost	₹3.50 lakh
MNRE Subsidy	₹1.05 lakh
Electricity-Cost Savings	Approx. ₹0.10 lakh/year
IRR with Subsidy	9.18%
Payback with Subsidy	9 years 2 months
IRR without Subsidy	4.97%
Payback without Subsidy	12 years 2 months
Operational Experience	
System Status	Operational; components reported in good condition. Occasional damage to reflector mirrors was reported.

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