In April 2001, the University of California San Diego (UCSD), one of the most prestigious medical research universities in the United States, installed a 27 MW combined heat and power (CHP) plant on their campus. Two Titan 130 gas turbine generator sets provide reliable electrical and steam production for heating, ventilation, and air conditioning for the campus. The plant provides up to 90% of the peak campus electrical demand while capturing exhaust heat to generate up to 75% of the steam demand. Each turbine is equipped with SoLoNOx™, Solar’s low emission, dry combustion technology which reduces the nitrogen oxide emissions to one of the lowest levels for CHP in the San Diego Air Pollution Control District.

UCSD saves energy with the plant by generating electricity and steam at an efficiency of approximately 75%. When the campus had to import this electricity, the efficiency to produce and transmit was only 25-30%. In addition, the university achieved savings of nearly $250,000 per month by producing instead of purchasing its energy. In April 2002, the project received a VIP (Very Important Planet) Clean Air Award from San Diego Earthworks. The award recognized UCSD’s dedication to maintaining a clean environment and utilizing the most advanced technology.