The cost per KW capacity of the four planned nuclear reactors is $3,642 based on the $20.4 billion contract awarded. The cost per KW capacity of recently constructed CSP plants is $4,200 or approximately 15% greater. However, nuclear facility operational and insurance costs are greater. Also, externalized cost factors such as storage of spent fuel and decommissioning are not accounted for. The life span of the nuclear reactors is 60 years, over which time another $20 billion will be spent on maintenance and operations per the signed contract. The life span of a CSP plant is indefinite with proper maintenance which is far less expensive. Over a 60 year lifespan comparison with the nuclear reactors, assuming $200k per day maintenance vs the $900k per day nuclear plant maintenance contract, the CSP plants would save $15b and be the more economical option over the entire period despite the additional $3b upfront construction expense.

Area required to build CSP plants to equal the 5.6 gigawatt combined capacity of the four contracted nuclear facilities.

Area required to build CSP plants to equal the 33.5 gigawatt total capacity that the UAE will need by 2020 (5.6GW nuclear + 27.9GW oil and gas).

The nuclear facility will be in the far West near the Saudi Arabian border, away from population centers. The location of the numerous CSP plants would be far more distributed and localized to end use.