

AFFORDABLE SOLAR IS ON A HIRING SPREE FOR THE FACEBOOK DATA CENTER

May 12, 2017, 2:42 pm MDT



RACHEL SAPIN
REPORTER
ALBUQUERQUE BUSINESS FIRST



A billboard advertising jobs at Affordable Solar's office/showroom parking near Interstate South in Albuquerque
PHOTO COURTESY AFFORDABLE SOLAR

Albuquerque-based Affordable Solar is on another hiring spree.

This time, it's for even more jobs than what the company [announced back in February](#) to build three solar farms for the massive Los Lunas [Facebook](#) data center. The company will be starting construction on those \$45 million farms in July of this year with the Facebook data center set to open in late 2018.



Ryan Centerwall, CEO of Affordable Solar, said thanks to Facebook and other projects the company is working on this year, it has the longest pipeline of available work since the company started operating in 1989.

“We have at least 54 permanent positions open and probably another 120 temporary positions open,” said Affordable Solar’s CEO [Ryan Centerwall](#). “The largest number of people are electricians that we’re looking for.”

Centerwall said thanks to Facebook and other projects the company is working on this year, it has the longest pipeline of available work since the company started operating in 1989.

“We have a backlog beyond Facebook that will keep those folks busy,” he said of any new hires. “We’ll probably hire as many as 200 people at any given time to work on Facebook at that project’s peak.”

Centerwall said in addition to Facebook, the company is looking for people to work on a solar project in Columbus, New Mexico, as well as a project for the White Sands test range missile facility for NASA.

Centerwall said the company’s residential and small commercial group is growing as well.

“We’re hiring across the board for our construction division, whether it’s for residential and light commercial work or for our utility project division,” he said.

Centerwall said solar installers make \$15 to \$19 per hour with the company and that electricians make \$24 to \$33.65 per hour.

[Facebook](#) is attracting several new investors to the Los Lunas area. [Gary Tonjes](#), president of Albuquerque Economic Development, said potential construction investment in constructing all six buildings set to be part of the Facebook Los Lunas data center could total \$1.5 billion over the next eight years [at an economic luncheon](#) in January.

[Sapin covers money, job creation and energy.](#)