

## Why Thomson Actuators?

For over 40 years, the dedicated engineers at Thomson have worked hard to design our actuators to provide performance in some of the most demanding applications - vibration, shock, heat, cold, salt spray.

### The largest linear actuator range in the market

In addition to our extensive application and engineering expertise, Thomson also has the largest unmatched range of standard and custom electrical linear actuators in the market today. For this reason, we are able to provide positioning solutions for a vast array of unique applications for dynamic loads up to 9000 N (2000 lbf). Thomson understands the critical needs of the clean energy industry and works diligently to provide the most cost-effective solution available. Our success is driven by:

- decades of application and engineering expertise
- robust and reliable products that withstand the harshest environments
- an extensive standard and modified product range
- custom designs for unique applications.

### Rugged and reliable

Thomson electro-mechanical linear actuators are rugged and reliable, withstanding harsh environments to:

- make manual jobs easier - reduce operator fatigue
- automate tasks - improve efficiency and reduce costs
- provide remote control - increase production
- remove operators from dangerous places - improve safety.



### Changing technologies

Manufacturers are taking a long, hard look at the way they use motion control systems in their equipment. Once dominated by pneumatic and hydraulic systems, equipment is now increasingly designed with electric actuators for automation of a large number of tasks. Electric linear actuators are easier to control, integrate with modern computer based control systems and are smaller, lighter and cleaner than hydraulic systems - all attributes that brighten a company's bottom line. In fact, electric linear actuators eliminate:

- the need for hydraulic pumps, valves and hoses
- the cost and bulk associated with hydraulic systems
- environmentally hazardous oil and risk of leakage
- the high energy consumption of hydraulic systems
- costly hydraulic reliability issues (contamination)
- the cost and hassle associated with fluid maintenance.

### Customization

Thomson is the industry leader in custom actuator design. Our design flexibility and unique customization expertise give us an advantage to quickly provide our customers a cost-effective design that meets their exact requirements.

### Do you need even stronger, longer and faster actuators?

If the performance of the Electrak range isn't enough for your application you may want to look at Thomson's Precision Linear Actuator range. These top off the line actuators can be supplied with DC, three phase, stepper or AC servo motors in a multitude of configurations. They can handle loads up to 38 000 N (8500 lbf.), move as fast as 2 m/s (78 inch/sec) and have a repeatability down to ± 0.013 mm (± 0.0005 inch). For more information, please contact customer service.



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Helping you build a better machine, faster.

## Clean Energy Alternatives - Linear Actuators

## Solar Energy

Solar panels are probably one of, if not the cleanest ways to produce electricity. They come in many varieties, from very small to quite big, and often are in large parks where hundred of panels harvest the energy from the sun. Some of the harder challenges with solar panels comes from making the panels large, lightweight and maneuverable yet able to withstand rain, wind or even snow.

### Solar panel tracking

Fixing a solar panel to a roof or pole is the simplest way to mount the panel but is not the perfect solution as the panel almost never will have the ultimate position with the sun. The solution is to track the sun which provides up to 30 % more output from the same number of panels but requires some unique actuator characteristics.

- Solar tracking requires actuators with high stiffness and no backdriving. Wind loading can exert high forces on the panels and actuators. Electrak's unique holding brake design eliminates back driving in high wind conditions.

- Accurate tracking often requires some form of feedback. Electrak actuators are available with either encoders or potentiometers to meet either analog or digital feedback requirements of the control.

- End of stroke limit switches protect the panel from overtravel in either direction and possible damage. Electrak actuators are available with adjustable end of stroke limit switches.

- Panels can require up to 9000 N (2000 lbf.) of force to move in windy conditions and Electrak actuators can deliver with ease.

- Some trackers require clevis mounting and others need trunnion mounting. Electrak actuators are available in either version.

- Solar panels are low maintenance. Electrak actuators are no maintenance.

#### Customization

Thomson has a long history of building customized actuators. A custom tailored actuator can be an integrated and invisible part of the structure and make assembly quick and easy and at the same time offer exactly the functions and performance required by your application.

#### Feedback

Exact tracking of several panels in a solar panel park requires accurate positioning feedback to get every panel lined up perfectly against the sun. Electrak actuators can be delivered with both analog or digital feedback.

#### Wind, rain, sun and snow

The elements can put much stress on a solar panel. One day can be windy and hot and the next cold and wet. But Electrak actuators are built to handle these conditions without needing any type of service or maintenance.

#### Limit the movement

Electrak actuators can be supplied with built in adjustable end of stroke limit switches which makes it easy to set the permissible limits of movement.

## Wind Energy

Wind energy is a clean and quite simple way of power production. But the best wind conditions are often found in locations that are remote or hard to reach. It can be at sea or in the middle of a large field with poor or no road access. This makes it important to keep service and maintenance of the wind mills to a minimum.

### Hood lifting and parking brakes

To be able to replace large components in the turbine house, wind mills often have top hatches that are too heavy to operate manually. The turbine house also needs to have some kind of parking brake so that it stays in position for service or when the wind conditions force the mill to stop. Electrak actuators are the ideal solution in both cases.

- Electrak actuators are clean compared to hydraulic alternatives. They do not require any plumbing and there is no risk of oil leakage.

- To run an Electrak actuator is not difficult or expensive, a simple switch and some wires is all it takes. No need for hydraulic pumps, oil reservoirs, valves or pipes.

- It is easy to set the exact positions where the in or out movement of the actuator should stop as Electrak actuators are available with adjustable or programmable end of stroke limit switches.

- Electrak actuators require no maintenance and are easy to mount and dismount. A number of mounting options are available to make it even easier.

#### Hood lift

The turbine houses often have hoods that are used at service and maintenance. The heavy hoods need to be powered and be ready to work even if covered by ice making Electrak actuators ideal.

#### Rotor Brake

A rotor braking function can easily be done using an Electrak actuator. The brake is used at service but also when the wind conditions are such that the rotor must be parked.

#### At sea, in the desert or on the plains

Wind mills are often placed at places where wind conditions are ideal. But salt water, ice, sand storms, high humidity, and extreme temperature changes make the environment less than ideal for most electromechanical components. But Electrak actuators are available with protection up to IP67 and will do the job.

## Product Overview

Shown is a selection of Electrak standard actuators well suited for work in solar panels and wind mills plus the Electrak CEA actuator which is designed especially for solar panel applications. The table shows the large performance span that this wide selection can offer.

#### Electrak 10

- Robust, strong and reliable
- Withstands very harsh environments
- Stainless steel extension tube
- Acme or ball screw models
- A variety of DC voltage models
- Clevis mounting

#### Electrak PPA

- Strong and versatile heavy duty actuator
- A variety of AC and DC voltage models
- High duty cycle
- Long stroke lengths
- Large range of options
- Trunnion mounting



#### Electrak LA24

- Robust, strong and reliable
- Withstands very harsh environments
- Aluminium cover tube
- Acme or ball screw models
- A variety of AC voltage models
- Trunnion or clevis mounting



#### Electrak Pro

- The next generation in actuator design
- Designed for the harshest applications
- Electronic load monitoring (ELM)
- Small size with minimal retracted length
- Acme or ball screw models
- IP66 protection as standard
- Manual override as standard
- Wide range of options
- Clevis mounting



#### Electrak CEA10

- Specially designed for solar panel applications
- Capable of high loads and long strokes
- Withstands very harsh environments
- Encoder or potentiometer feedback
- Optional limit switches
- Tube mounting



Supply voltages	12, 24, 36 Vdc and 115, 230, 400 Vac
Speed range	0,1 - 50 mm/s (0.004 - 2 inch/sec)
Dynamic load, maximum	9000 N (2000 lbf.)
Static load, maximum	18000 N (4000 lbf.)
Stroke length, maximum	914 mm (36 inch)
Protection degree, maximum	IP 67
Feedback options	potentiometer or encoder
Limit switch options	external or internal adjustable / internal programmable
Mounting	clevis, tube mounting or trunnion
Life	designed for 20 years, based on 1 cycle/day
Warranty	up to 3 years