

Welcome to Solar Weekly Insight, presenting the most important developments in the global solar industry, ranging from significant industry trends, policies, research, and new technologies to markets and pricing.

This week's edition focuses on the constant decline of PV-prices worldwide as well as on the consequences of the election in Ontario for the Canadian province's FIT.

Furthermore Solar Weekly Insight looks at the Chinese PV project pipeline that has reached 14 GW, and EDF, commissioning one of the largest PV plants in the world.

## Breaking News: Extension of the U.S. Treasury Grant Program could create 37,000 U.S. solar jobs

On October 12th, 2011, the Solar Energy Industries Association (SEIA, Washington D.C., U.S.) released a report by EuPD Research (Bonn, Germany) which finds that a one-year extension of the U.S. Treasury Grant Program (TGP) would create more than 37,000 U.S. jobs in 2012.

The report further states that an extension of the policy would result in nearly 2 GW of additional solar capacity by 2016. [More](#)

## Silicon, PV module prices declined, another 15 per cent fall until the end of the year expected

Price trends September 2011

Module type, origin	€/Wp	Trend since 2011-08	Trend since 2011-01
Crystalline Germany	1.33	↓ - 4.4 %	↓ - 22.2 %
Crystalline China	0.98	↓ - 6.0 %	↓ - 33.5 %
Crystalline Japan	1.27	↓ - 4.7 %	↓ - 22.4 %
Thin film CdS/CdTe	0.92	↓ - 6.9 %	↓ - 26.3 %
Thin film a-Si	0.77	↓ - 9.6 %	↓ - 28.4 %
Thin film a-Si/μ-Si	0.93	↓ - 5.2 %	↓ - 26.4 %

*The average PV module price fell by 26 % since January 2011.*

Due to excess capacities within the whole solar PV value chain, combined with a weak demand in Europe, prices are very likely to further decline until the end of the year.

The silicon price fell below the mark of 50 USD/kg and has thus reached an all-time low. Wafer producers are expected to lower their prices by 11 to 13 per cent during the fourth quarter of the year.

Since PVSEC in Hamburg prices for solar cells have heavily dropped, forcing small and medium sized cell producers to scale down or even stop production.

As a consequence, module prices are presumably going to fall by another 15 per cent until the end of the year. Compared to the previous months, domestic German demand has picked up slightly. This trend is expected to continue during the next weeks. [More](#)

### Promotion



## Ontario feed-in tariff safe from conservatives' threat

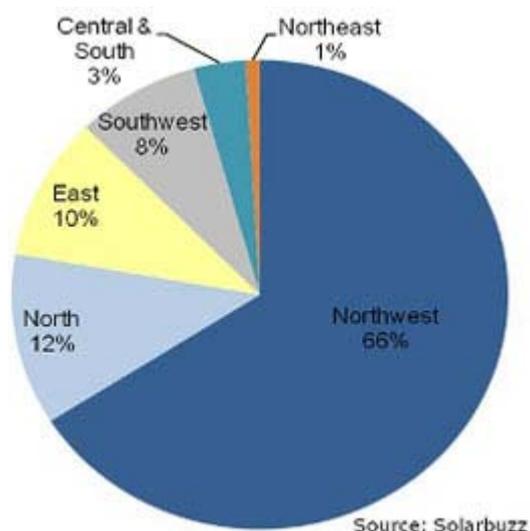


Ontario Progressive Conservative Leader Tim Hudak had vowed to scrap the province's feed-in tariff if elected.

However on October 6th, 2011, Ontario voters chose Dalton McGuinty's Liberal Party for 53 seats to the Conservatives' 37, removing this threat to North America's first European-style feed-in tariff at the province level. [More](#)

*Picture left: Ontario Liberal Leader Dalton McGuinty's (left) party, which presided over the creation of Ontario's feed-in tariff system, appears to have won a majority in the October 6th, 2011 elections.*

## Chinese PV project pipeline reaches 14 GW



Earlier this week, Solarbuzz released a report announcing that the Chinese non-residential PV project pipeline has reached 14 GW, mostly in the nation's Northwest region.

Solarbuzz's "China Deal Tracker" has identified 1,007 non-residential PV projects in China that are either installed, under construction or in the development phase.

However, as industry analyst Paula Mints has noted, it's a long way from power points to power plants. [More](#)

## EDF commissions 67.2 MW PV plant in France



This week EDF Energies Nouvelles put online the largest PV plant in France and one of the largest in the world, the 67.2 MW Gabardan PV plant.

The PV plant is among the ten largest in the world, utilizing 872,000 First Solar Inc cadmium telluride thin-film PV modules.

It includes a pilot project with 2 MW of tracking systems. [More](#)

## More polysilicon production goes online



Also this week, Wacker Chemie AG began production of solar-grade polysilicon at its facility in Nünchritz, Germany.

The company estimates that the facility will reach a production capacity of 15,000 metric tons annually (MTY) in the second quarter of 2012. [More](#)

*Picture Left: Gas conversion system for polysilicon production at Wacker Chemie's Nünchritz site*

Thanks for your interest in the Solar Weekly Insight. Stay posted for next week's industry highlights.

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**Heindl Server GmbH**  
Kaiserstraße 137  
D - 72764 Reutlingen

Tel.: +49 (0)7121-69681-30  
Fax: +49 (0)7121-69681-38

Register of corporations-Nr:  
HRB 382398 Handelsregister des Amtsgerichts  
Stuttgart

CEO / Editor in Chief: Rolf Hug;  
[rolf.hug@solarserver.de](mailto:rolf.hug@solarserver.de)

**Solarserver North America Representation**  
One Embarcadero Center, Suite 1060  
San Francisco, CA 94111

Toll-Free: + 1 877 SUN 7077  
or +1 877 786 7077  
Fax: +1 415 627 9169

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