

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 new PV production facilities in the U.S, Asia, and includes significant news from California.

Moreover Solar Weekly Insight features an important background story on the new FIT, prices and the future for solar in the UK.

## GE will build largest US PV factory in Colorado

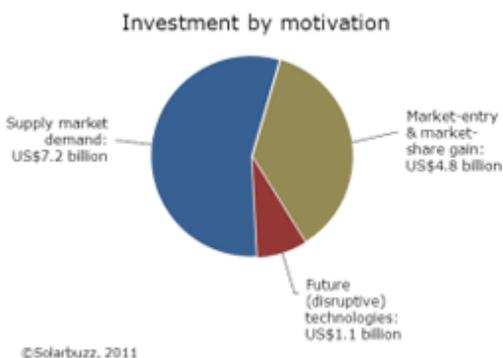


On October 13th, 2011, GE announced plans to build a new PV module production plant in Colorado, which it says will be the largest in the nation.

GE anticipates the new factory will first start up earlier than expected with the first panels coming off the line in 2012 with commercial availability in 2013. [More](#)

*Picture left: GE's New Solar Plant in Aurora, Colorado*

## Solarbuzz: PV Equipment spending to fall 45% in 2012 from 2011 levels



This week saw a grim prediction for the global PV equipment manufacturing industry. Solarbuzz released a report estimating that PV equipment spending is projected to fall more than 45% in 2012, down from a historic peak this year. [More](#)

*Picture left: PV Equipment investment by motivation 2011 (c-Si ingot-to-module and thin-film panels)*

## Promotion



## Asian manufacturing continues to grow

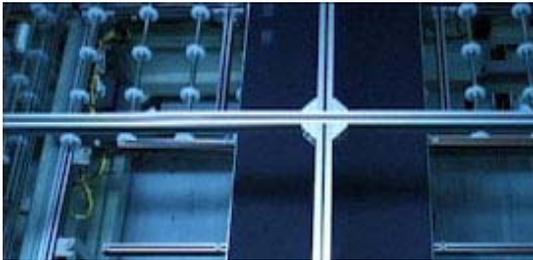
Despite this unfavorable outlook, PV manufacturing continues to grow globally, particularly in Asia.



The interior of AEG's new Bangalore factory

On October 13th, AEG Power Solutions inaugurated a 400 MW PV inverter plant in Bangalore, India. [More](#)

AEG PS will produce its PV250 and PV500 inverter series at the 7,400 square meter factory, which will employ 150 workers. The company also plans to manufacture uninterruptable power supplies at the facility in the future.



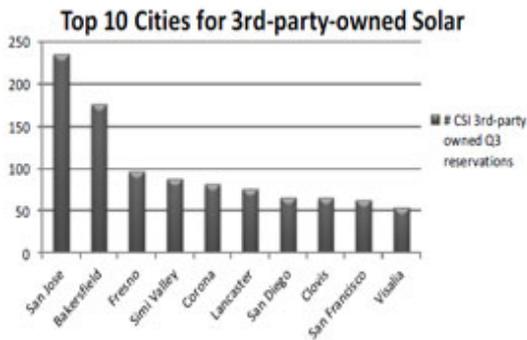
TSMC Solar will manufacture CIGS thin-film PV modules at the new Taiwan facility

And TSMC completed the equipment move-in for the first phase of its CIGS factory in Taiwan.

Initial investment due to the company totaled USD 258 million with manufacturing capacity of 100 megawatts (MW) per year in 2012, ramping to 300MW at Phase 1 completion. [More](#)

## California news: solar leases exceed cash purchases, PG&E partners with Q-Cells, BrightSource applies for 750 MW of PV

This week saw a number of significant news items from California.



Solar leasing continues to transform the U.S. residential PV market.

On October 17th, 2011 SunRun and PV Solar issued a report stating that California PV leases exceed cash purchases for residential solar installations. [More](#)

Picture left: California cities with the highest percentage of 3rd-party-owned solar



In other big California news, Q-Cells was chosen by PG&E as a preferred partner for its 250 MW utility-owned generation (UOG) program.

The same day, Q-Cells unveiled a new high-efficiency PV module, the Q.PEAK. [More](#)

Picture left: Q-Cells states that the Q.PEAK is based on optimized crystalline silicon with improved surface metallization



And finally, BrightSource Energy has filed an application with the CEC to build an additional three, 250 MW power tower CSP plants in Southern California.

The proposed plants will use BrightSource's LPT solar power tower, and the company notes that the design of these plants utilizes a higher tower and increased mirror density than other solar power tower designs, reducing land usage. [More](#)

*Picture left: Tower receiver by BrightSource Energy. The design for the new plant includes a 230 meter high tower, higher than previous designs*

### **Solar point of view:**

### **The new FiT, prices and the future for solar in the UK**

Solar Media's Founder and CEO David Owen on where the UK solar industry is headed as the Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) is being designed.



*David Owen*

It's almost one year since the Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) and rumours are beginning to fly around the UK solar industry as to what the upcoming Comprehensive Consultation on the feed-in tariff (FiT) holds. I decided it was time to investigate what people are actually saying, and to find out how much of what is being said matches the facts around budgets, pricing and deployment.

I do understand however that we are at a seminal point in the PV industry's development where drastic changes to the FiT could irrevocably harm the positive growth we have seen since April 2010. [More](#)

*Promotion:*

### **Growing U.S. solar market offers opportunities for manufacturers and investors**

Although the shift in energy policy in the U.S. is just changing slowly, the photovoltaic market is increasingly growing. In the first quarter of this year, 66% more photovoltaic systems were connected to the grid than in the same period last year. Market researchers assume that the U.S. solar market will increase tenfold by 2014, despite the difficult economic environment. Those interested in insight into the latest developments of the market and its prospects will come together on November 30 and December 1 for the "PV Power Plants – USA 2011" conference in Phoenix, Arizona.

### **Arizona offers multiple incentive programs which create more momentum for building an even stronger solar market**

Essential information for project development will be discussed in individual sessions. Included issues such as quality and reliability of system components, the development of electricity transmission in the U.S. as well as projects in the field of concentrated photovoltaics (CPV) will be discussed. For European participants, Arizona is especially an interesting business area because there are multiple incentive programs available which create more momentum for building an even stronger solar market. Besides the dry climate with its numerous sunny days the location Arizona has also an advantage in relation to the neighboring State of California, which has 20 to 30% higher costs.

## **Opportunity to visit Suntech and Power-One manufacturing facilities**

During the conference, representatives from the Greater Phoenix Economic Council and Arizona Commerce Authority will be on hand to discuss funding opportunities. Interested parties will also have the opportunity to visit and tour the Suntech and Power-One manufacturing facilities. The conference is primarily focused at developers and continues to attract manufacturers, suppliers, insurers, builders, banks, investors, energy service companies and law firms.

More information: <http://www.solarpraxis.de/en/conferences/pv-power-plants-usa-2011>

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**Publisher:**

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