

2014-06-05

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 U.S. countervailing duty investigation of Chinese solar PV, the impact of PV with storage on the U.S. utility model, and EPIA's new report on the global PV market.

U.S. slaps Chinese solar PV with 19–35% anti-subsidy tariffs in preliminary ruling, the impact of



This week the U.S. Department of Commerce issued its preliminary ruling in its countervailing duty (CVD) investigation of Chinese solar PV cells and modules, imposing duties of 19–35%. This is roughly double the preliminary duties imposed in the last trade case, which did not include PV modules. [More](#)

Picture left: Wuxi Suntech has been singled out for the highest duty rate at 35.21%. (Suntech)



SEIA and Yingli have both said that tariffs will impact the U.S. PV market by raising costs, and SEIA continues its efforts to get all parties to come to a negotiated agreement. [More](#)

Picture left: SEIA President and CEO Rhone Resch says his organization is attempting to negotiate a compromise between the parties

U.S. EPA begins process of regulating CO₂ from existing power plants



Additionally, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has proposed new regulations on CO₂ from existing power plants. As the details of implementation will be left up to individual states, it is difficult to know the impact that this will have on solar or other renewable energy deployment.

Additionally, the regulations do not affect CH₄, and as such are expected to be in line with the Obama Administration's orientation towards replacing coal-fired generation with natural gas. [More](#)

Picture left: The plan envisions a larger role for natural gas in the U.S. electricity supply

Barclays downgrades U.S. electric utility bonds due to competition from solar PV with energy storage



There are more and more signs that U.S. utilities are going to have to change their business models to adapt to the increase in distributed generation. Late last week financial services company Barclays downgraded the entire electric sector of the U.S. high-grade corporate bond market, saying that PV with storage could transform the U.S. utility model. [More](#)

Picture left: Barclays says that solar and storage are already cheaper than retail electricity in Hawaii, and that more states will follow. (Kyocera)

EPIA: 38.4 GW of solar PV installed globally in 2013



This week the European Photovoltaic Industry Association (EPIA) has released its annual report on the global PV market, which estimates that at least 38.4 GW of PV was installed globally during 2013, a big growth from the 30 GW installed during 2012.

EPIA notes that while the European PV market fell to 11 GW in 2013, but expects European market levels to stabilize at around 10 GW annually. [More](#)

Picture left: EPIA expects the European PV market to stabilize at around 10 GW annually. (Yingli)



NPD Solarbuzz has also found that the European PV market is expected to stabilize around 10 GW in 2014, which will represent only 22% of demand. [More](#)

Picture left: The UK was Europe's largest PV market in Q1 2014, but Solarbuzz says that proposed policy changes are likely to impact demand. (Martifer Solar)

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IEA: Greater investments in solar PV, CSP needed to meet climate goals



This week the International Energy Agency (IEA) released a new report which finds that investment in renewable energy needs to increase sharply over the next two decades in order to build the energy infrastructure to meet the goal of keeping global warming below two degrees Celsius. This includes nearly doubling annual investments in solar PV and CSP over the 2000–2013 average. [More](#)

Picture left: IEA finds that adequate long-term finance on suitable terms is still a challenge for distributed PV. (Yingli)

New markets: SunEdison to enter Chinese market through Huantai partnership, Sungevity to enter Dutch PV market with E.ON collaboration



This week saw U.S. companies engage in two major partnerships which will allow them to enter foreign markets. SunEdison entered a materials supply and PV project development partnership with Huantai Materials, including plans to build up to 1.7 GW of PV projects in China over the next five years. This is the largest project development deal that a Western company has entered into in China. [More](#)

Picture left: SunEdison will also supply FBR polysilicon from its new plant in South Korea to Huantai. (REC Silicon)



Meanwhile, Sungevity has partnered with E.ON Benelux to begin offering its third-party financed solar solutions in the Dutch PV market. Concurrently, Sungevity has completed its acquisition of Zonline, which will become Sungevity Netherlands. [More](#)

Picture left: Sungevity will offer its European customers similar services, including its iQuote instant quoting technology

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More partnerships: SMA furthers collaboration with Danfoss to drive down costs



In other partnership news, late last week SMA and Danfoss signed a contract to enter into a “close strategic partnership” to reduce costs through economies of scale and joint development initiatives. Anti-trust authorities have already approved SMA's plans to acquire Danfoss' inverter business in exchange for 20% of SMA's outstanding shares. [More](#)

Picture left: At the Intersolar Europe trade show SMA will unveil its Sunny Tripower 60000TL inverter, based on Danfoss' MLX inverter. (Danfoss)

Acquisitions: RBI Solar buys Renusol, First solar acquires Skytron



This week also saw two major acquisitions by U.S. companies. First Solar has expanded in the monitoring and O&M space as well as in the European market by acquiring Skytron Energy. Skytron will now operate as a subsidiary of First Solar, and will maintain its own brand identity. [More](#)

Picture left: Skytron has installed its monitoring and control solutions in more than 600 PV plants totaling 5 GW. Image: Skytron



Mounting systems maker RBI Solar has bought Renusol from Centrosolar. The companies notes that Renusol's and RBI's product lines complement each other, and after the sale Renusol will be able to offer ground-mounted solutions in Europe, with RBI offering Renusol's roof mounting systems outside Europe. [More](#)

Picture left: The companies note that this will allow RBI to offer Renusol's roof mounting systems for PV outside Europe. (Renusol)

SunEdison files for yieldco IPO, will offer half a billion dollars in bonds to fund PV projects



This week SunEdison Inc.'s yieldco has filed a registration statement with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission for an initial public offering (IPO). TerraForm Power is a direct subsidiary of SunEdison will own and operate PV assets acquired from SunEdison and other companies.

Yieldco structures are becoming more and more popular as a means to hold solar assets, and Abengoa and NRG have also created yieldcos. [More](#)

SunEdison has also announced that it plans to offer USD 500 million in unsecured convertible bonds due 2020 in a private placement. These bonds will be offered by the initial purchasers only to institutional buyers. [More](#)

Picture left: SunEdison plans to use its yieldco to hold both distributed and utility-scale PV projects

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Publisher:

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