

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 booming and highly competitive PV markets, energy storage subsidies in Germany, and international developments in solar policy and technology.

Today Solar Server presents an exclusive article by Raj Prabhu, CEO and Co-founder of Mercom Capital Group, stating that India will lose sight of the big picture with its solar anti-dumping case

### Japanese PV market booms



Late last week the Japan Photovoltaic Energy Association release figures for shipments in the last three months of 2012, reporting a 247% growth in domestic shipments to 1.0 GW, including 341 MW of imports. [More](#)

The statistics from Japan's third quarter of fiscal year 2012 also show changing market characteristics, including a booming utility-scale sector and increased thin-film usage.

*Picture left: Japan has seen an increasing amount of solar "mega-projects" in recent months*

### Solar trade war: EU orders registration of modules, launches investigation on solar glass



This week saw two more developments in the global solar trade war. The European Commission has ordered the registration of Chinese PV imports, which could be the first towards retroactive tariffs. [More](#)

Also, the EC has launched an anti-dumping investigation into imports of solar glass from China. [More](#)

*Picture left: Chinese-made PV modules, as well as cells and silicon wafers, must now be registered at customs*

## Pew, BNEF find US trade surplus with China



In a moment of pure irony given EU ProSun's references to the US trade case with China, Pew Charitable Trusts and BNEF have released a report which finds that the US held a sizable trade surplus with China in the solar sector in 2011. [More](#)

"The report findings underscore the long-term economic potential for U.S. leadership in the clean energy sector," said Pew Clean Energy Program Director Phyllis Cuttino.

*Picture left: Of the three sectors the US enjoyed clean energy trade surplus, solar is the largest*

Promotion

## Solar Thin Film Panel Production Equipment Online Auction 21 March 2013



By order of Schüco TF and Malibu – Maynards, Hilco Industrial and Heritage Global Partners are proud to offer for sale by Online Auction, technology based on Thin-Film Silicon Multi-Junction.

Included in the sale are Solar PECVD Systems, Kloepper NIP Roller Laminator, Scholz Autoclave, Rofin Laser sources, Vacuum Pumps and much more.

The equipment is sold ex 2 locations in Germany and can be previewed by appointment. Please contact Daniel Kroeger at [DanielK@maynards.com](mailto:DanielK@maynards.com) or +49 174 3210115, or visit [hilcoind.com](http://hilcoind.com).

## German energy storage subsidies postponed indefinitely



While European bureaucrats weigh the possibility of tariffs on Chinese products, the German federal government delays the energy transition.

This week MP Hans Josef-Fell (Green) revealed that the nation's program to subsidize energy storage for PV has been postponed indefinitely, which he says is a sign that the CDU-FDP government is not honoring its commitments. [More](#)

*Picture left: German MP Hans Josef-Fell*

## Yingli 4Q results show the good, bad and ugly sides of the PV market



Yingli's fourth quarter results showed the complex state of PV manufacturing today.

While the company's shipments boomed, its price reductions were not enough to avoid heavy losses.

The company is also showing a market shift towards China and away from Europe. [More](#)

*Picture left. Yingli reports a fall in module production costs to USD 0.63 per watt*

## Chile opens solicitation for Latin America's first CSP plant

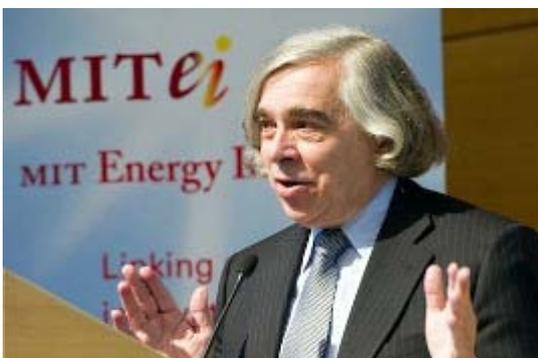


In a bold move for Latin America, the Chilean government has opened a call for proposals to build a CSP plant at least 10 MW in size, to be the first in the region.

Proposed designs must include three hours of energy storage. [More](#)

*Picture left. Chilean Minister of Energy Jorge Bunster presented the project*

## Obama appoints Moniz to head DOE

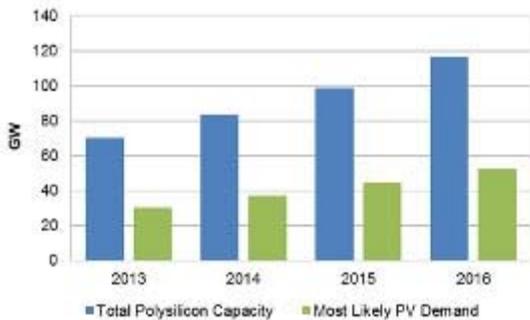


This week US President Obama appointed MIT Energy Institute President Ernest Moniz to head the United States Department of Energy.

Moniz' and MIT's statements have indicated a lack of understanding of the potential of renewable energy, and his support of fracking has brought protest from the environmental community. [More](#)

*Picture left: MIT Energy Initiative Director Ernest Moniz has been criticized by environmental and public interest groups over his support for fracking*

## Solarbuzz: Significant new polysilicon capacity to come online in next few years



NPD Solarbuzz has issued a new report warning that significant new polysilicon capacity is scheduled to come online in the next few years, despite “enormous” overcapacity. [More](#)

Solarbuzz expects that this will aggravate the current overcapacity, which is likely to exceed demand by more than 100% for the next few years, and further drive polysilicon prices.

*Picture left: Solarbuzz expects global polysilicon capacity to remain more than 100% larger than PV demand for the next few years*

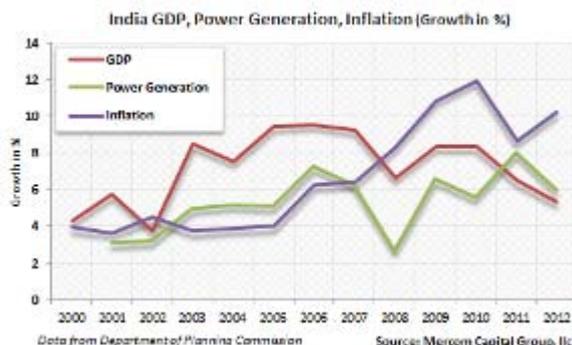
## India: SRECs remain a seller's market



This week RESolve Energy Consultants released data on the Indian SREC market, which it describes as “buoyant”, noting that trading is constrained by a limited number of sell bids. [More](#)

*Picture left: RESolve states that the Indian SREC market continues to be a seller's market, and will remain so until more solar plants are commissioned*

## Solar Point of View: Losing Sight of the Big Picture



*Raj Prabhu “Given its flexibility and increasing affordability, solar is a unique solution to India’s power problem along with others.”*

Before examining the reasons surrounding India’s solar manufacturing anti-dumping investigation, Raj Prabhu, CEO and Co-founder of Mercom Capital Group, accentuates, that India needs power. It is estimated that there are roughly 400 million Indians without access to power – roughly a third of the country.

“In an effort to protect domestic PV manufacturers, India has initiated a trade dispute with the United States, China, Taiwan and Malaysia. As we said in our first quarter update, for a solar market still in its infancy, starting a trade war is an unnecessary distraction when the focus should be to encourage new technologies, competition and free markets”, Prabhu says. [More](#)

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

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