

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 ongoing global PV trade war, quarterly results of major solar companies, CPV technology, and the future of renewable energy policy in the U.S. after President Obama's victory at the election

### **Trade war heats up: ITC ruling on Chinese PV tariffs, China challenges EU feed-in tariffs, launches anti-dumping investigation into EU polysilicon**



*MOFCOM has argued that bonuses for EU-made PV modules damages its manufacturing, which is already struggling due to excess capacity and low selling prices*

This week saw two major developments in the ongoing global PV trade war. China's MOFCOM has filed a case through the WTO challenging feed-in tariff provisions in EU nations that favor domestically produced modules. [More](#)

MOFCOM has also begun an anti-dumping investigation into EU exports of polysilicon to China's PV industry, which will join investigations of U.S. and South Korean polysilicon exports. [More](#)

On November 7th, 2012 the U.S. International Trade Commission unanimously confirmed the imposition of anti-dumping and countervailing duties between 24% and 255% on imports of crystalline silicon solar photovoltaic (PV) cells from China, and modules made from those cells. [More](#)

### **Future of U.S. environmental, renewable energy policy unclear after Obama victory**



On November 6th, 2012 Barack Obama won the U.S. presidential election for another four-year term. However, the future of U.S. federal environmental and renewable energy policy remains cloudy, as the opposition Republican Party has maintained a strong majority in the U.S. House of Representatives. [More](#)

*Picture left: Despite a divided Congress, U.S. President Barack Obama has continued to push policies to support renewable energy and new technologies through the U.S. DOE and other federal agencies.*

## China adds 2.71 GW of PV in the first nine months of 2012



Late last week, China's electricity regulator announced that that nation has installed 2.71 GW of PV in the first nine months of 2012, a 415% increase over the previous year. State-owned utility State Grid also increased PV purchases 537% during this period to 2.48 TWh. [More](#)

*Picture left: Grid-tied PV capacity additions grew 415% in the first nine months of 2012 over 2011*

## Quarterly results: First Solar, SunPower, MEMC



*First Solar has cut manufacturing costs to USD 0.67 per watt, excluding its German operations*

Over the previous week a number of major players in the PV industry released results for the third quarter of 2012. First Solar reported a 17% year-over-year decline in sales, but maintained a 13% operating margin and posted a profit of USD 88 million, while cutting manufacturing costs. [More](#)

SunPower also saw an 8% fall in revenues, and posted a -11% operating margin and net loss of USD 48 million, as its business moved away from Europe to concentrate in North America. [More](#)

MEMC Electronic Materials Inc. reported USD 361 million in revenue in its Solar Energy division. the company returned to positive margins and a net income of USD 37 million after many quarters of losses. [More](#)



*Picture left: Rooftop PV plant by SunEdison. MEMC stresses the geographical and size diversity of projects in SunEdison's 2.9 GW pipeline*

## CPV: Soitec secures PPA for 44 MW project in South Africa, Amonix reaches 33.5% module efficiency



*In reaching 33.5% CPV module efficiency, Amonix has broken its own world record*

Finally, this was a big week for CPV technology. Soitec signed a power purchase agreement for its 44 MW Touwsrivier CPV project in South Africa with Eskom. [More](#)

And Amonix announced that it has reached 33.5% module efficiency, a new world record. [More](#)

## Solar Energy System of the Month: Alamosa Solar



On the subject of CPV, this month Solar Server brings you a look at the Alamosa Solar project, the world's largest CPV project, as our Solar Energy System of the Month for November 2012. [More](#)

*Picture left: Cogentrix completed the project in only 12 months. Image by Amonix*

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