

Welcome to Solar Weekly Highlights, 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 Solar Weekly Highlights focuses on PV module prices

## Minimum value PV module prices in July 2011; Demand expected to increase in Q2, Q3

### Price trends July 2011

Module type, origin	€/Wp	Trend since 2011.06	Trend since 2011.01
Crystalline Germany	1.46	↓ - 6.0 %	↓ - 14.6 %
Crystalline China	1.12	↓ - 5.7 %	↓ - 23.8 %
Crystalline Japan	1.38	↓ - 2.7 %	↓ - 15.6 %
Thin film CdS/CdTe	1.03	↔ - 0.2 %	↓ - 17.8 %
Thin film a-Si	0.90	↓ - 3.8 %	↓ - 15.9 %
Thin film a-Si <sub>μ</sub> -Si	1.00	↓ - 8.6 %	↓ - 20.9 %

In July 2011 demand for PV equipment continued to be very weak throughout Europe and, at least in Germany, it will most likely not pick up until after the holiday season.

Since purchase prices for solar wafers and cells have decreased further, module prices have reached new minimum values in July.

Modules produced in Germany i.e. were offered on the trading place pvXchange for up to 10ct/Wp cheaper compared to the previous month.

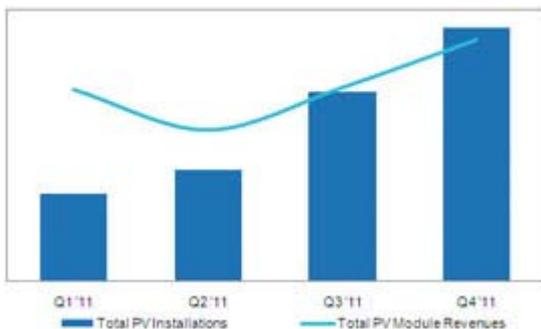
[Complete PVX Spot Market Price Index](#)

New manufacturers in particular react to the Asian competition with low prices, and extended guaranties and warranties.

Manufacturers of thin film modules have also decreased their prices compared to the past months (mainly those that use micromorph tandem technology).

The unsatisfactory demand situation in Germany and Italy has already led manufacturers to reduce their sales forecast for the current fiscal year.

## Solar PV installations will rise in second half of 2011 - but module revenue growth stalls



*IHS global quarterly PV installations and module revenues trend forecast in 2011*

Despite a recovery in global solar photovoltaic (PV) installations in the second half of the year, plunging prices will result in zero revenue growth for the PV module business in 2011, according to research from the IHS iSuppli Photovoltaic Service from information and analysis provider HIS.

The first six months of 2011 due to IHS saw 6.6 gigawatts (GW) worth of PV installations worldwide, down 4 percent from 6.8GW during the same period in 2010.

IHS expects global PV installations to accelerate to 14.7GW in the second half of 2011.

For the entire year, installations will amount to 21.2GW, up 21 percent from 17.6GW in 2010.

## China sets price for PV



In a week of big announcements, perhaps the biggest news is that China has set a fixed price between USD 0.179/kWh and USD 0.155/kWh for PV generation, a main element of what some are calling a feed-in tariff for the nation.

China's National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) states that it will set future prices for PV generation based on multiple factors including investment costs and advances in technology.

[More](#)

## Promotion

**1<sup>st</sup> EneR Event (International Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Trade Fair) in conjunction with the 6<sup>th</sup> edition of elec expo from November 22nd to 26th 2011 in Casablanca**



Organised by FENELEC (the Moroccan Federation of Electricity, Electronics and Renewable Energies) in cooperation with the German trade fair organiser fairtrade Messe and Forum 7, EneR Event enjoys the full support of the Moroccan Government.

Exhibit at EneR Event 2011 and be part of what strives to become the most valuable event for the Moroccan energy and electrical engineering sector ever held in the country as well as the MENA-region. [More information](#)

## Big news for PV, CSP plants in U.S. Southwest



*The Agua Caliente PV project under construction*

A number of significant announcements came this week in California and Arizona, as large PV and CSP projects were applied for, purchased, funded, expanded and commissioned.

BrightSource has applied for a second, 500 MW CSP project in California. [More](#)

NRG Energy bought the Agua Caliente solar project from First Solar, following the finalization of a USD 967 million loan guarantee. [More](#)



PG&E and Sempra Generation have signed a PPA for a 150 MW expansion of the Copper Mountain PV plant. [More](#)

And finally, NRG also commissioned the 45 MW Avenal PV facility. The 45 MW facility (picture left) is the largest operational PV plant in California [More](#)

## The bad news keeps coming: more 2Q 2011 results



First Solar achieved a 17.3% efficiency with a cadmium telluride cell in July 2011

Three of the biggest names in the PV industry released second quarter 2011 results this week, and it was not pretty.

Topping the list, First Solar reported its third consecutive quarter of declining revenues, amid rapidly falling prices and margins. [More](#)

Meanwhile, JA Solar released selected preliminary financial data, stating that while it has met its shipment guidance, it has suffered a negative gross margin in the quarter. [More](#)

MEMC showed that it was able to maintain its revenues in the second quarter of 2011, however collapsing wafer prices and the cancellation of a 10-year contract with Suntech do not speak well for the future of its wafer business. The company has also acquired the U.S. subsidiary of FRV. [More](#)

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