

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 big module deals in South Africa and China, the rapid development of the US PV market as well as Suntech's and Hanwha SolarOne's 3Q results.

Big module deals in South Africa and China



An 81 MW PV plant with JinkoSolar modules will be built in South Africa's Northern Cape province

Leading the news this week were a series of announcements of massive PV module supply deals between Chinese PV producers and developers, mostly for projects under South Africa's Renewable Energy Independent Power Producers Programme.

Hanwha SolarOne will supply modules to two PV projects totaling 155 MW in South Africa's Northern Cape Province. [More](#)

GCL-Poly will supply 150 MW of PV modules based on its wafers to two plants in South Africa. [More](#)



Yingli will supply an estimated 10% of the modules for the new wave of projects in China

Suntech will supply 100 MW of modules to two PV plants in the Northern Cape. [More](#)

JinkoSolar will supply PV modules for an 81 MW PV plant in South Africa's Northern Cape. [More](#)

And finally, Yingli will supply 288 MW of PV modules to a new round of demonstration plants under the nation's Golden Sun Program. [More](#)

US PV market to boom in 4Q 2012



Also this week, GTM Research and SEIA released their latest quarterly report, finding that the United States installed 684 MW of PV in the third quarter of 2012.

The report expects Q4 to be even larger, with 1.2 GW installed. [More](#)

Picture left: GTM/SEIA US Solar Market Insight Report

Soitec opens world's largest CPV factory in San Diego



This week Soitec announced that it will hold an opening ceremony on December 19th, 2012 for its 280 MW concentrating photovoltaic (CPV) factory in San Diego.

The plant will support Soitec CPV projects in California and throughout the US Southwest. [More](#)

Picture left: At full capacity the factory will be able to produce 280 MW of CPV modules annually

3Q results: Suntech, Hanwha SolarOne



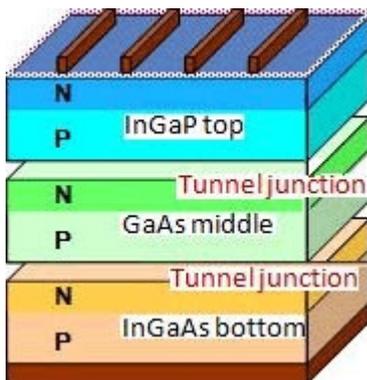
Suntech expects further declines in shipments and a negative gross margin the fourth quarter of 2012

This week both Suntech and Hanwha SolarOne reported third quarter 2012 results, which reflected the struggles that PV manufacturers are having across the board due to overcapacity and collapsed prices.

Suntech reported an 18% slide in revenues from the second quarter of 2012 and 5% gross margin, predicting further declines in shipments and margins in the fourth quarter of 2012. [More](#)

While Hanwha SolarOne reported a sequential increase in shipments but a decline in revenues, as well as -26% operating margin. [More](#)

Sharp sets world record for PV cell efficiency



This week Sharp reported a new world efficiency record at standard sunlight for a PV cell at 37.7%, utilizing its triple-junction technology. [More](#)

Picture left: Diagram of Sharp's record-setting triple-junction PV cell

Big PV in Nevada



Los Angeles Mayor Anthony Villaraigosa (center) at the signing ceremony

This week saw news from several big PV plants underway in the US state of Nevada. Sempra U.S. Gas & Power announced that it has commissioned the first 92 MW phase of its Copper Mountain Solar 2 PV plant near Boulder City. [More](#)

While Los Angeles Mayor Anthony Villaraigosa signed PPAs for 460 MW electricity from two massive PV projects in Nevada, including a 250 MW PV plant on Native American Land in the Moapa Valley and 210 MW from Sempra's Copper Mountain Solar 3 plant. [More](#)

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