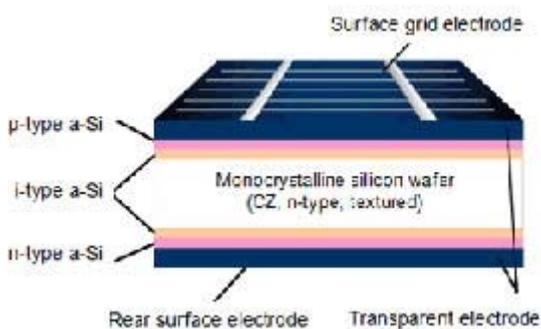


2012-14-2

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 predicted growth in Asian and Chilean PV markets, a new efficiency record for mono-crystalline PV cells and a possible recovery of the polysilicon industry.

Panasonic achieves 24.7% efficient PV cell



This week Panasonic set a new record for mono-crystalline PV cells under standard sunlight at a size greater than 100 square centimeters, using its HIT PV technology.

The new record exceeds the previous efficiency record of 23.9% for HIT PV cells by 0.8%. Panasonic notes that achieving this efficiency at a thickness of 98 micrometers may also allow it to reduce costs. [More](#)

Picture left: Panasonic's HIT PV cell structure

Analysts predict the rise of Asian PV markets in 2013



This week two different market analysts released reports which predict the dramatic rise of Asian PV markets in 2013.

NPD Solarbuzz predicted that the Asian market will rise to 13.5 GW, led by China, Japan and India. [More](#)

While Lux Research identified China and India as top emerging PV markets. [More](#)

Picture left: Lux Research predicts new opportunities in the Chinese PV market for foreign companies

Polysilicon recovery?



This week IHS released a new report which finds that the share of polysilicon sold on the spot market has fallen to 20%, which it says indicates that prices are set to stabilize after two years of decline. [More](#)

The predicted bottoming out of prices is welcome news for companies including Dow Corning, which reported a fall in revenue and profit in 2012 results. [More](#)

Picture left: Dow Corning says that the current solar trade war is a major factor in its business

Phoenix Solar to shed subsidiaries, appoints new CEO



This week Phoenix Solar announced that it has disassociated itself from a number of subsidiaries, and appointed CFO Bernd Köhler as CEO effective March 1st, 2013.

The discontinued operations made significant operating losses in 2012," states Dr. Köhler. "This did not come unexpectedly."

"But the ongoing adverse market effects and the regulatory changes in disfavour of photovoltaics made it increasingly unlikely that the expected increase in shipments which was needed for a return to profitability would actually come to occur in spite of numerous efforts by staff and management." [More](#)

Picture left: Dr. Köhler will retain his position as CFO as well as serving as Phoenix Solar CEO, effective March 1st, 2013

Promotion

6th German PV Market Briefing | 21 February, 2013 | Frankfurt M. Airport | 10% Discount



EEG, PPAs, storage and FIT independent business models are the buzzwords of the 6th German PV Market Briefing

The German PV Market Briefing 2013 will tackle the current trends and challenges experienced by the German PV market and will discuss solutions and recommendations for 2013/2014. Topics current to the industry such as EEG, PPA's, storage and FIT independent business models are the buzzwords of the 6th German PV Market Briefing.

What can be expected from the German PV market in 2013? How are prices and segments developing? What kind of alternative business cases exist?

Take the opportunity and discuss with renowned market experts. You receive a 10% discount on the participation fee when registering until February 15. For further information and details on the registration please follow this [link](#).

MEMC, SunPower, REC, Applied report quarterly results



The largest portion of MEMC's project development business through SunEdison remains in the United States

This week several major PV industry players released quarterly results. MEMC showed its third consecutive quarter of profitability, but a decrease in plants under construction in the fourth quarter of 2012. [More](#)

REC ASA did not fare as well, reporting a heavy loss on impairment in 4Q 2012 results. The company continues to struggle with profitability, despite ending its wafer division. [More](#)

SunPower also reported moderately heavy losses in the fourth quarter, but also an increase in revenues and operational successes. [More](#)

Finally, Applied Materials reported a slight sequential decrease in revenues, but an increase in new orders in its EES division in its most recent quarter. [More](#)

Third party PV taking over US residential market



In the US market, GTM Research has found that third-party-financed systems now make up more than 50% of the residential PV market in four US states

"Prior to 2010, there were few residential third-party ownership (TPO) vendors," said GTM VP of Research Shayle Kann, the report's author.

"Since then, the success of companies such as SolarCity, Sunrun, and SunPower has led to a spate of new entrants into the market." . [More](#)

Picture left: SolarCity remains the largest company in third-party financing of solar PV systems

Chilean PV installations set to boom in 2013



Also this week Chile's grid operator reported that developers plan to interconnect 355 MW of PV plants to the nation's Northern Grid in 2013. [More](#)

Picture left: While a large number of utility-scale PV plants have been planned in Northern Chile, very few have been built to date (Chilean Ministry of Energy)

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

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