

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 solar power storage funding in Germany, U.S., Chinese, and Japanese PV markets, and emerging markets.

Moreover Solar Server presents the world's largest operational CSP plant, the Shams 1 Solar Energy Center, providing heat for 100 MW of solar generation

### **Germany to start subsidies for energy storage on May 1st**



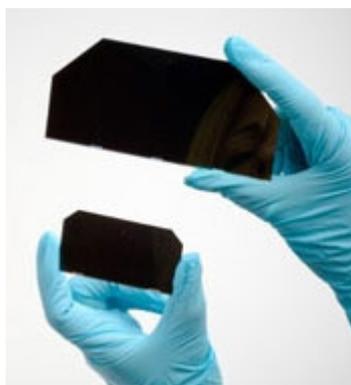
This week the long-awaited announcement came that Germany will implement subsidies for energy storage systems connected to solar photovoltaic (PV) generation on May 1st, 2013.

Subsidy levels will be set at a maximum of EUR 660 per kW of installed PV.

In the first year the KfW banking group will provide EUR 25 million (USD 33 million) in funding. [More](#)

*Image left: Solar power storage by Solon*

### **Spectrolab reaches 37.8% PV cell efficiency**



This week Spectrolab set a new record for PV without concentration, reporting a 37.8% PV cell efficiency using its multi-junction PV technology at 1 sun, as verified by NREL.

"We expect this solar cell technology will have significant benefits for space, ground-based, and sensor applications," said Spectrolab President Troy Dawson. [More](#)

*Image left: Spectrolab, a subsidiary of Boeing, produces PV cells and modules for use in spacecraft*

### **LDK defaults on bond payment**

This week LDK Solar announced that it has failed to make full payments to the holders of USD 23.8 million worth of bonds, as the second large Chinese PV manufacturer to default on a bond payment in less than one week. [More](#)

## US utility-scale PV market booms in Q1 2013



The US DOE has reported that 38 new utility-scale PV plants totaling 537 MW were commissioned in the nation in the first three months of 2013.

The report also states that utility-scale PV and concentrating solar power (CSP) has reached 4.82 GW in the nation, providing 0.44% of total capacity. [More](#)

*Image left: Sempra's 92 MW Copper Mountain 2 PV plant was among those commissioned during the quarter*

## Chinese, Japanese markets on the rise



*Japan installed more than 1 GW of residential PV during the nine-month period*

Japan's Ministry of Trade and Industry (METI) has announced that the nation installed 1.33 GW of PV over the nine-month period ending January 1st, 2013, including over 1 GW of residential PV. [More](#)

Japan's METI has also approved Photovolt's plan to build a 475 MW PV project for an island in Southern Japan. [More](#)

Also this week Clenergy and CGN announced a deal to build 300 MW of PV plants in China's Yunnan Province. [More](#)

Finally, IHS has revealed that Asian demand drove a 5% increase in inverter sales to USD 7.1 billion in 2012. [More](#)

Promotion

### The Solar Future: NL 2013:



*With over 200 entrepreneurs, bankers, investors, suppliers, manufacturers and government representatives we hope to meet you on May 23!*

On 23 May 2013, the fifth edition of 'The Solar Future: NL' will take place in Eindhoven's futuristic Evoluon center.

This is the meeting place for everyone that's serious about making business of solar energy in the Netherlands. In one day you get the complete overview of the latest developments, you will be inspired by national and international (solar) energy guru's and you will meet with enough clients, partners and experts to jump-start a new year of successful business!

On our website you'll find all the information with regards to the event, including the [program](#), [speakers](#), [venue](#) and [registration](#).

## Emerging markets: Solar in El Salvador, the Philippines



This week saw two new regional breakthroughs. German development bank KfW has agreed to loan USD 51 million to build the largest PV plant in Central America at 14 MW in El Salvador. [More](#)

While PhilNewEnergy received approval to build a 35 MW PV plant on the island of Mindanao, the Philippines. [More](#)

*Image left: El Salvador offers excellent natural solar conditions*

## Solar Energy System of the Month: Shams 1



Finally, this week Solar Server brings you a look at the world's largest operational CSP plant, the Shams 1 Solar Energy Center in Abu Dhabi, exploring what the plant means both for the Middle East and the world.

258,000 mirrors comprise the core of Shams 1, providing heat for 100 MW of solar generation, coupled with 50 MW of natural gas generation. Masdar estimates that the Shams 1 plant supplies enough power for 20,000 homes. [More](#)

*Image left: A beacon in the desert: the Shams 1 Solar Energy Center*

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

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