

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 EU tariffs, additional retroactively feed-in tariffs cuts in Spain, and China's increased PV capacity goal of at least 35 GW by 2015.

It also provides a US solar roundup, featuring Georgia's ambitious new solar program, California's cumulative 1.63 GW of installed rooftop PV, and an exclusive Interview with Jeff Nestel-Patt, of GT Advanced Technologies.

EC holds hearing on impact of EU tariffs as compromise looms



PV developers Conergy and Gehrlicher Solar have both filed for insolvency following the introduction of preliminary tariffs

This week the media has been rife with rumors of a compromise on EU PV duties being worked out between the European Union and China. This could not come too soon for many companies, and this week the European Commission held a hearing on the impact of tariffs on EU solar companies, organized by the Alliance for Affordable Solar Energy. [More](#)

Such actions come too late for Gehrlicher Solar, which last week filed for insolvency in Germany, citing market conditions caused by the tariffs. The company's American subsidiary remains solvent.

China expands PV market goal to 10 GW annually, calls for consolidation



On the other side of the world, the Chinese government is responding to both the difficult conditions in the PV industry and EU and US tariffs, with measures that include expanding its domestic market.

This week the nation's State Council called for a new goal to install 10 GW of new PV capacity annually for the next three years, as well as measures to consolidate the industry and limit manufacturing capacity. [More](#)

The Chinese State Council has called for limits on aggregate PV manufacturing capacity

Spain retroactively cuts feed-in tariffs yet again, unveils new proposal to pay for electricity from PV



UNEF states that it is unsure the full extent of the impact of the new regulations, noting many of the nation's PV plants are insolvent

Late last week the government of Spain confirmed its reputation as the worst government in Europe for PV investors, by again retroactively cutting feed-in tariffs.

The ruling Popular Party also unveiled a new payment system which is supposed to provide a 7.5% return on assets for PV operators, however Spanish trade groups had not fully evaluated this proposal by press time. [More](#)

UK DECC publishes domestic RHI tariff levels, unveils Electricity Market Reform



The publishing of the domestic RHI tariffs comes after two years of delays

After more than two years of waiting, the UK solar thermal industry finally got some relief as the nation's DECC has published tariff levels for its Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI). The program will open in Spring 2014, with solar thermal installations paid at least USD 0.290/kWh-thermal for the heat they produce. [More](#)

However, this week the DECC also published a consultation on its electricity market reform, which will replace the Renewables Obligation with "Contracts for Difference". The nation's Solar Trade Association has warned that in its current form, the new regulations could be very damaging to the 50 kW-5 MW market segment. [More](#)

US solar roundup: Georgia Power ordered to build 525 MW of PV, California installs 391 MW of rooftop PV



GPSC Commissioner Lauren "Bubba" McDonald proposed the amendment

It's been a busy week in US solar policy. Late last week regulators in the US state of Georgia ordered Georgia Power to expand its solar program to build 525 MW of PV plants in the state by 2016. This is major progress not only for Georgia but the entire Deep South, which has some of the most under-developed PV markets in the nation.

An interesting detail was the presence of right-wing groups among the supporters of more solar, in this case the Tea Party Patriots. [More](#)



Also last week, California regulators released their annual report on the California Solar Initiative, reporting that the state had installed 391 MW of rooftop PV in 2012, to bring it to a cumulative 1.63 GW of installed rooftop PV. [More](#)

Picture left: Vote Solar Initiative: CSI achieved scale and lower costs to make rooftop solar a real and growing part of the state's energy landscape ahead of schedule



Contact us and speak your mind!

As in the US state of Georgia, right-wing organizations have come out in support of solar in Arizona (Image TUSK)

Finally, late last week Arizona Public Service filed with state regulators to attempt to curtail the state's net metering policy for its residential PV customers, by buying giving them two options, one of which is to buy back the power at roughly 1/3 the residential rate.

Similar to Georgia, a group with right-wing ties, Tell Utilities Solar Won't be Killed, is among the more vocal defenders of solar in the state. [More](#)

Activ Solar commissions 34 MW PV plant in Ukraine



This week Activ Solar continued to bring generation to under-served areas of Ukraine, announcing the commissioning of a 34 MW PV plant in the Odessa region of Ukraine, its fifth plant in Southern Odessa. [More](#)

Picture left: Activ Solar has now commissioned five PV plants in Southern Odessa

Signs of recovery: Solar Server Interview with Jeff Nestel-Patt, of GT Advanced Technologies



This week Solar Server brings you an exclusive interview with Jeff Nestel-Patt, Marketing Communications Director of GT Advanced Technologies.

Jeff reports signs of recovery in the polysilicon and PV equipment industries, as well as talking about the company's Hyperion Ion Implant technology, technology progress in China's polysilicon industry, and more. [More](#)

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

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