

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 PV industry and technology trends, established and new solar markets.

## **Satcon files for bankruptcy and SunPower idles capacity as Solarwatt emerges from insolvency**



*As a result of these moves, SunPower's overall blended capacity utilization will fall to 60% in the fourth quarter of 2012*

Following a well-worn path by a large number of PV manufacturers, inverter maker Satcon has filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy, but will attempt to continue operations with a goal to restructure and return to normal operations. [More](#)

Following on this vein, SunPower announced that it will idle six PV cell manufacturing lines and reduce module output 20% in its factory in the Philippines, as part of a restructuring. [More](#)

However, in a rare moment of good news from insolvency proceedings, Solarwatt has emerged from insolvency, following court acceptance of its restructuring plan. [More](#)

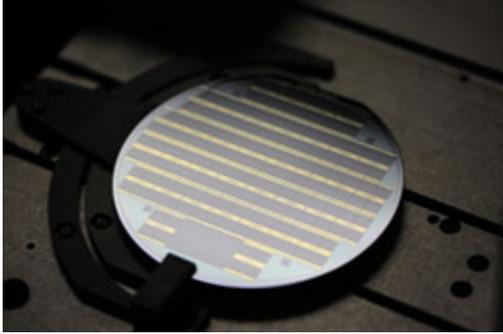
## **GTM predicts that 180 module manufacturers will fail or be acquired in 2015**



The pain that the PV industry is experiencing may not go away soon, according to a new report from GTM Research. The firm estimates that 180 of the world's 300 PV module manufacturers will go under or be acquired in the next three years, including many in Europe and the United States. [More](#)

*Picture left: The report predicts that PV production capacities will remain in excess of demand for the next three years*

## Solar Junction reaches 44% cell efficiency



Despite these problems, the PV industry continues to set new records. This week Solar Junction announced that it has set a new world record of 44% cell conversion efficiency with its CPV technology.

The measurement at 947 suns was verified by the U.S. Department of Energy's National Renewable Energy Laboratories (NREL, Golden, Colorado, U.S.). The new efficiency beats its previous record of 43.5% at 418 suns set in April 2011. [More](#)

*Picture left: Solar Junction CPV wafer*

## Italy reaches 15.9 GW of operational PV; PV, CSP meet 5.1% of Spanish electricity demand in August 2012



And as the industry struggles, new records are set with solar generation. This week Italy's GSE reported that the nation had reached 15.9 GW of operational PV, with another 672 registered but not connected to the grid. [More](#)

And Spain met 3.9% of its electricity demand from PV and 2.2% from CSP during August 2012, according to a new report from the nation's National Energy Commission. [More](#)

*Italy is rapidly nearing its EUR 6.7 billion annual cap on PV subsidies, with only EUR 242 million left*

## U.S. Interior Department approves plan for solar energy zones



Also this week, the U.S. Department of the Interior approved a roadmap for the development of PV and CSP in selected "zones" on public lands in six western states. [More](#)

*Picture left: The PEIS establishes 17 solar energy zones covering 1,150 square kilometers of public lands in six U.S. states*

## New markets: First Solar to build 100 MW in Indonesia, Gestamp, Solarpack complete largest PV plants in Latin America



Also, the solar industry continues to expand to new markets. This week First Solar announced an MOU to build 100 MW of PV in Indonesia. [More](#)

Finally, Gestamp and Solarpack completed a pair of 20 MW PV plants in Peru, as the largest operational PV plants in Latin America. [More](#)

*Picture left: Portions of Southern Peru offer very strong natural solar radiation*

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